

Private steel firms strike is on again

The strike in the private sector of the steel industry has been reimposed by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation after the Law Lords ruling yesterday that the Court of Appeal was wrong to grant an injunction against it. Union leaders expect a quick end to the dispute as a result.

Union wins its case before Law Lords

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Steel union leaders last night brushed aside the advice of Mr William Sirs, their general secretary, and announced they would reimpose the strike in the private sector and widespread secondary picketing from tomorrow.

After hearing the House of Lords' ruling that the Court of Appeal was wrong to grant an injunction against spreading the state steel shutdown, the 21-member lay executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation voted to increase the industrial and economic pressure on the Government.

Mr Sirs appealed in vain for an eight-day stay of execution for private sector firms. But the union leaders opted to intensify industrial action "with the utmost vigour, in an attempt to resolve the dispute as soon as possible".

One executive member described the Law Lords' decision as "a licence to smash the British economy", and the ISTC now believes that the impact of widening the British Steel Corporation stoppage for the second time could end the strike within six weeks of the January 2 starting date.

Telegrams to the steel workers' headquarters in Kings Cross indicate that the private sector strike will begin almost immediately.

The favourable decision in the Lords and the restoration of the strike instruction to the private sector means that there will be a tremendous upturning of the position," Mr Sirs said. "I think a settlement will come fairly quickly now that there is a settled position, because in the next two weeks consumer industry will be running down fairly considerably."

The steel workers' leaders have already embarked on exploratory talks with the BSC management but there is as yet no sign that the full ISTC negotiating team will be brought to London for talks that could end the dispute.

Mr Sirs claimed he did not dare put the corporation's latest package to the executive for fear that it would be rejected outright.

But unions representing craft and general workers in state steel are still negotiating and top-level contacts involving leaders of the National Union of Blast Furnacemen are expected to resume in the next few days.

Unlike the lengthy debate

that preceded the imposition of a strike in the private sector from last Sunday, the argument yesterday was almost completely one-sided.

These boys are in a very difficult position," Mr Sirs said of his executive. "They are out of work, without any money, on picket lines, being frustrated by police, and having to work very hard to make sure that no steel is coming through. They don't like the situation of certain parts of the industry working, while others are not working."

The dominant ISTC clearly believes that as industry's stocks run out, there will be increased pressure on the Government to push for a settlement of the BSC wage dispute. Mr Sirs predicted it would not be long before the CBI "begins to scream" and that would put pressure on ministers and the BSC to settle.

He was not optimistic about the outcome of the TUC's efforts to force a change in Cabinet and ESC policies on the rapid rundown of the steel industry, particularly in South Wales.

The Law Lords decided unanimously that the Court of Appeal had been wrong in finding that the extension of the steel strike differed substantially from the Express Newspapers v. McCune case which legitimized secondary action in furtherance of a trade dispute.

Mr Sirs was "pleased as Punch" with the crucial decision delivered in a three-minute judgment from the Woolfs. The 16 private steel firms, granted injunctions last week against the strike and secondary picketing, will now have to bear all the ISTC's costs. They are estimated at more than £55,000.

The court's reasons will be delivered in writing in about two weeks, but Lord Diplock said: "I do not think that there are any relevant differences between this case and the case of Express Newspapers v. McCune, the present case is governed by that decision and the Court of Appeal were wrong."

The news of the Lords' decision, heard over the radio on picket lines in Sheffield, prompted a jubilant determination to step up the blockade of private sector firms. "What the miners did, we can do," one picket said.

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Family reunion: Mr Alexander Ginzburg (left), the Soviet dissident who was exchanged last April for two convicted Russian spies in the United States, was reunited with his family yesterday when they arrived from Moscow at Charles de Gaulle airport, near Paris.

Mrs Irina Ginzburg was accompanied by her two young sons and her mother-in-law. She had earlier refused to leave the Soviet Union because the couple's 19-year-old son, Sergei, had been refused permission to travel after being called up for military service.

In Moscow Mrs Yelena Sakharov, wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, who was banished from the Soviet capital last week, told western correspondents yesterday that she had been ordered by the Moscow state prosecutor's office to stop spreading slander or reading out statements by her husband.

Details, page 4

Cabinet decides areas for further cuts

By Caroline Atkinson

Broad decisions on public spending cuts for 1980-81, and subsequent years, have been reached by the Cabinet, according to official sources yesterday. These will include cuts in housing subsidies and in the real value of social security benefits, including child benefits.

Decisions on the details of other cuts have still to be made. These may be reached in meetings between Treasury ministers and other departments. The Treasury has now started work on its spending White Paper, to be published next month before the March 26 Budget.

The public spending review has resulted in smaller cuts in spending in the coming year than was originally hoped. This is partly because the cuts in social security have a much smaller effect in the first year than in later years. The uprating for these benefits takes place in November, so any decision to reduce the uprating by breaking the link between benefits and prices is felt only in the second half of the financial year.

The latest round of public

GEC joins battle for Decca with likely cash offer of £80m

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

Sir Arnold Weinstock's General Electric Company is to make a counter-bid for Decca and Rascal Electronics—which earlier this week believed it had clinched a £65m deal to take control of Decca—now faces a formidable competitor.

GEC is Britain's largest electrical group and it has an impressive management record. Its profits last year were £378m and in December it had cash resources of £500m. The new offer for Decca will come when the stock market opens on Monday morning. GEC is likely to offer cash, compared to Rascal's all-share terms, and it could top Rascal's offer by as much as £15m.

Earlier this week Sir Edward Lewis, Decca's chairman and effective founder, died aged 79. Only days earlier he had given his agreement to Rascal's bid for Decca and committed 17.2 per cent of the ordinary voting capital to Decca.

This commitment, however, only becomes irrevocable if Rascal's bid is declared unconditional, so the field is still wide open to GEC. That com-

The tractor factory that never was

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 1

The tractor engine repair factory on the outskirts of Leningrad was a modern industrial miracle. Designed by a special industrial institute it claimed a capacity to repair 14,000 engines a year. It was handed over by the builders in December 1978 and officially opened last February.

For a full year it was in operation. But the first year's production statistics were rather unsatisfactory, and showed large losses. The collective farms in the vast north-western region of the country served had great difficulty getting their tractors repaired.

It would have been a real miracle if they had succeeded, for the factory simply did not exist.

On paper it looked solid enough. But anyone following directions to the factory site came upon a grizzled old guard, a gate, a few foundation trenches filled with broken bricks and a number of half built blocks.

Where did the workers mend the engines? The guard was puzzled at such a question: "No one had worked on the site for years. The project had begun satisfactorily in 1974 but had run into delays. Two years later the State Bank had cut off further credit, and most of the builders were dismissed. A new start was planned for late 1977."

But Construction Authority No 49, responsible for the factory, was put in a dilemma. It was far behind schedule, so Mr A. V. Prokhorovich, the authority chairman, decided to go ahead anyway with the order handing over the factory to the State.

Exactly a year later, while birds still built their nests in the open window spaces, the authority officially recorded that "all construction work has been completed according to design. The factory is now ready for use."

The problem of how to get the papers over to sign the papers was overcome by a series of reshuffles on the State Inspection Commission including the chairman.

Someone signed for the chief engineer, declaring that he had been appointed to check the work instead. Even the factory doctor signed, though he later denied the signature was his.

The fire inspectors had no qualms: there was no factory, so no fire risk. Similarly the Environmental Protection Agency signed without hesitation: there were no tubes discharging waste, so there was no possible damage to the environment.

Officials in Moscow seeing all the papers were in order concluded all was well. For a full year a fictitious plan was assigned to the non-existent factory, while its very real losses were written off.

But inevitably the matter was discovered by independent state auditors. They began asking questions, convened a meeting and summoned all those connected with the affair.

Several officials were dismissed and others severely reprimanded. Prokhorovich, who re-told the whole sorry tale, asked pointedly whether the farmers of the north-west were any closer to getting their tractors repaired at a plant they had waited so long for.

Shell writ over lost tanker oil

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Solicitors acting for Shell have served a writ for compensation for the loss of 190,000 tons of oil on Mr Fred Ed Soudan, director of Oxford Shipping of Monrovia, owners of the 213,000-ton tanker Salem, which sank off West Africa in mysterious circumstances last month.

Mr Soudan, who operates from Houston, Texas, was staying at the Hilton Hotel, London, where he was later interviewed by officers of Scotland Yard's fraud squad, who are making investigations under Detective Chief Supt Peter Griggs. Mr Soudan checked out of the hotel yesterday and left, it is believed, for Switzerland.

In Monrovia the Liberian authorities announced that they were setting up a formal inquiry into the loss of the Salem which would pay particular attention to allegations of criminal fraud. The Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Mr J. C. Montgomery, who is at present in Dakar, engaged on a preliminary inquiry, had been instructed to secure all documents relating to the casualty.

That may, however, prove difficult because South Africa, where the ship is alleged to have called and discharged her cargo before sinking, forbids disclosure of information about oil shipments.

Under the Oil Procurement Act, passed last year to help to beat the oil embargo by some Arab states, including Kuwait, from where the Salem's cargo originated.

Shell's writ, issued in the Admiralty Court, is for compensation for loss of oil valued at \$56m. Shell said. They had paid that sum to the Louisiana-based oil brokers Fortoil, "a respectable company with whom we have had previous dealings" last month, knowing the ship and cargo had been lost and

Six policemen killed in Basque attack

Basque extremists killed six members of the Civil Guard when they attacked a convoy carrying mortars and ammunition near Bilbao. The death toll was the heaviest in a single incident between police and Basque nationalists, and the attack, sure to heighten tensions between the armed forces and the Government, as the Civil Guard is considered part of the military establishment.

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New EEC butter row

Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the European Commission, has come under fire from some EEC states for curbing butter sales to Russia in retaliation for its Afghanistans intervention. The French and the Irish accuse Mr Jenkins of exceeding his authority, given by EEC foreign ministers, while Britain strongly supports him.

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Labour events clash

Factions in the Labour Party are in a clash of events today. There is concern that the party's annual local government conference in Leicester, being attended by Mr James Callaghan, will be eclipsed by a Young Socialist demonstration in London.

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Abortion favoured

Most adults surveyed in a Gallup poll said they want the abortion law either to be unchanged or made more liberal. Roman Catholics were only slightly more in favour of restricting the law than those in the survey as a whole.

Page 2

Assassin hired

Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party has drawn up a death list involving rival candidates in the Southern Rhodesian elections, it was alleged yesterday. It was also claimed that an assassin had been hired to kill some of the candidates.

Page 5

Mr Miller says he will not resign

Mr William Miller, United States Treasury Secretary, said yesterday that he would not resign over accusations that he acted improperly when he gave Textron Inc. and attempted to cover this up later. The Securities and Exchange Commission alleged that Textron paid bribes totalling \$5.4m in the 1970s and issued misleading statements to Congress, and that Mr Miller knew the company illegally spent \$500,000 entertaining Defense Department officials.

Page 5

Welsh player banned

Byron Steenson, the Leeds United and Wales defender, has been banned by UEFA from all European Cup competitions for four and a half years. Steenson was sent off against Turkey in a European championship match. Wales and Leeds will appeal.

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Transplant future

The two successful heart transplants, this week, have given doctors new optimism about the future of the operation in Britain. One professor does not expect an expansion in transplants because of cash cuts in the health service.

Page 3

Arab autonomy hope

The unexpected narrowing of the Egyptian and Israeli positions on Arab self-rule in the occupied territories has given fresh momentum to the Middle East peace process. As a result, Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy, will return to the region later this month for a further round of autonomy talks.

Page 5

Population swings

Although the United Kingdom population fell slightly to 55,500,000 in 1978, it is predicted that it will rise to 58,040,000 in the year 2001. The Central Statistical Office also says in its annual abstract of statistics that people are drinking more, using more films and having more children.

Page 5

Art dealers deny illegal bidding

Three leading art dealers have denied breaking the law by an auction bidding agreement to acquire a portable sculpture by Albrecht Dürer. One of the three, Agnew's, is disputing a ruling by the reviewing committee, which did not accept Agnew's application to export the bust to the Metropolitan Museum, New York, at a valuation of £265,000.

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Parents criticized: Parents spend far less time nowadays talking to the children, a report by 12 Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association says.

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Call to colours: A Commons call by Mr Hugh Fraser, MP, for a national service register was greeted with little enthusiasm.

Page 2

Mexico City: Seven give evidence of police torture in "clandestine" prisons.

Page 5

Washington: Diplomats smuggled out of Iran return to State Department.

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Letters: On abortion law, from Canon G. B. Bentley, and others; on teaching mathematics, from Mr Richard Welch; on concert troubles, from Mr David Altherton, and others.

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Features: James Bond; from action man to a slapstick puppet hero, by Andrew Ross; Sports Diary, Peter Ryde.

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A young Indian civilian, by Humphrey Trevelyan; Paperbacks of the month; bridge, travel, gardening, chess.

Sir Patrick Hancock
Sport, pages 15, 16
Cricket: Gooch run out at 99 in Melbourne Test; Rugby: France for match against England; Football: Norman Fox on the plight of team managers; Bowls: Bryant wins world singles title; Racing: Michael Phillips on today's big race at Sandown Park.

Ex-minister shot in Paris street

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 1

M. Joseph Fontanet, a leading personality of the Centrist party, and many times a minister under General de Gaulle, and President Pompidou, was shot and seriously wounded early this morning outside his flat in Paris.

He had driven home after giving a lecture at Vincennes, north-west of Paris, when he was shot from a passing vehicle as he was leaning over the boot of his car.

One puzzling fact is that the attacker—there were no witnesses to the shooting—did not fire on M Fontanet when he first reached home, but waited until he had taken lecture material upstairs, and returned to the car.

He was found by two neighbours, the sister and brother-in-law of President Giscard d'Estaing, who were on their way home from a dinner party. M Fontanet could say was: "I have been shot from a car."

The bullet went through his shoulder blade and lodged itself in his lung. He was taken to hospital. His condition was described tonight as "very worrying."

The reasons for the attack are a mystery and not thought to be political. A quiet and un-demonstrative savoyard, M Fontanet is a man of great probity, discretion, and austere habits. He is not connected with shady political or business dealings that might provide the police with a clue.

In the sixties M Fontanet was a leading member of the Christian Democratic MRP movement around M Jean Lecanuet. He had become a junior minister in 1959, in the government of M Michel Debré, and acquired a solid reputation for his fight against inflation. He left the Government in 1962 with four other MRP ministers in protest against General de Gaulle's stand on European unity.

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Most women want choice of abortion

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WEST EUROPE

Mr Jenkins criticized for going beyond EEC ruling on butter

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Feb 1

A serious dispute has broken out in the EEC over the measures announced by the European Commission for curbing butter exports to the Soviet Union as part of a coordinated campaign by the Non-Communist West to penalize the Russians for their invasion of Afghanistan.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the Commission, is being accused of exceeding the authority he was given by EEC foreign ministers last month when they agreed that any controls on agricultural exports to the Soviet Union should be "respectful of traditional trade flows".

The main attack on the Commission comes from the French and Irish, supported somewhat less vehemently by the Danish, while Mr Jenkins is strongly backed by the British, who want subsidized butter sales to the Soviet Union kept to the absolute minimum.

The disagreement started at a confidential meeting yesterday of the committee of permanent representatives in Brussels, and was provoked by Mr Jenkins's remarks earlier the same day to the political affairs committee of the European Parliament.

In his report to the Parliament Mr Jenkins said that the Commission did not envisage any butter sales to the Soviet Union in the near future, and that any eventual sales would be made from the Community's stockpiles of old butter in limited quantities and at realistic prices. Except for small amounts of butter in 1lb packs no export subsidies would be available.

Mr Brendan Dillon, the Irish Ambassador, accused Mr Jenkins of willfully ignoring the decision of EEC foreign ministers, and said that the ban on the sale of fresh butter to the Soviet Union would cause a great damage to his country.

Ireland has no stockpiles of old butter, which are mainly in

West Germany and France, and normally exports between 10,000 and 15,000 tonnes of fresh butter a year to the Russians.

Mr Luc de la Barre de Nanteuil, the French Ambassador, said his government was "most distressed" by the Commission's action and accused Mr Jenkins of committing the EEC politically in a way that went beyond his authority.

The French economic interest in maintaining subsidized sales of surplus butter at a high level is best illustrated by recent statistics which show that last year about half the 149,000 tonnes of butter exported to the Soviet Union came from France.

Britain's attitude is similarly explicable in economic terms since it is not a surplus dairy producer but, as the biggest net contributor to the EEC budget, none the less pays the lion's share of the cost of subsidizing export.

On the face of it Mr Jenkins does appear to have interpreted his brief from EEC foreign ministers somewhat liberally. His main aim appears to be to forestall demands for even stronger action from the European Parliament when it meets later this month in Strasbourg.

The Americans have also been pressing for a ban on dairy exports on the grounds that such sales could make the American embargo on feed-grain supplies to the Soviet Union less effective. One effect of the embargo, it is argued, will be to force the Russians to slaughter cows.

The Commission, and officials from member states, are to examine at a meeting next Monday the imposition of controls on beef exports to the Soviet Union.

Those who would be similar to those now in force or planned in the dairy sector.

Although the EEC is not a big supplier of beef to the Russians in normal circumstances, shortage of feed-grains could lead to a sharp drop in Russian meat production and force Moscow to look for extra external supplies.

Basque extremists kill six Civil Guards in ambush

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Feb 1

Basque extremists ambushed a small convoy near Bilbao this morning, killing six policemen and hijacking a Land-Rover ammunition. Police recovered the Land-Rover and its cargo about midday.

The six policemen were members of the Civil Guard, which is considered a part of the military establishment. For this reason it was one of the most serious incidents in the underground war of independence being waged by Basque activists. The number of Civil Guard policemen killed was the highest in any single incident, and their deaths are bound to heighten the tension between important segments of the armed forces and the Government.

That tension gave rise to a report published a week ago—denied by the Government—that a plan for a military coup had been thwarted. Police sus-

pect the military wing of the secessionist movement ETA was responsible for today's attack.

Meanwhile in Madrid, military authorities ordered the editor of the Madrid evening newspaper *Diario 16*, which published the coup report last Friday, to be court-martialled on charges of insulting the armed forces. The editor, Señor Miguel Angel Aguilar, had been given until today to reveal the source of his report. When he left the military headquarters this morning after being charged Señor Aguilar told reporters that he told the military judge that he had not yet been able to determine which members of his staff were responsible for gathering all of the information in the story in question. He said that in any case he considered it his duty to accept full responsibility for publication of the article. If convicted he faces up to six years' imprisonment.

£266,000 theft as bank families are held hostage

From Michael Hornsby, West Germany, Feb 1

Two robbers escaped with more than £266,000 when they forced bank employees to empty the safe after taking their families hostage, police said today.

The robbery, one of the largest in West German history, began yesterday when two men in their early thirties called at the home of Herr Martin Heckmann, manager of the regional savings bank here.

They forced Herr Heckmann's 20-year-old daughter to call her father home on an urgent matter. She, her mother, older brother and sister were tied up before Herr Heckmann arrived.

One robber held the family hostage while the other forced Herr Heckmann to open the town's combination locks from three bank employees.

The families of each of the bank employees were taken to Herr Heckmann's house and tied up. Herr Heckmann and his colleagues watched the robber empty the safe and then they all drove back to the manager's home.

The robbers left 13 bound hostages who were not found until late last night when one freed himself and called the police.—UPI.

Men held by police face Schild kidnap charges

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 1

Nine men are to be charged in connection with the kidnapping of Mr Rolf Schild, his wife, Daphne, and daughter, Annabel Maria, who were taken from their house at Porto Rafael, Sardinia, on August 21.

Mr Schild was released on September 5 and told to collect a large ransom for the two women. Since that time there have been many rumours, counter-rumours and denials.

The kidnappers were portrayed as unusually harsh in manner. They are said to have threatened to have cut off the ears of the women, to have maltreated Mr Schild's emissaries and to have torn up bank notes which he had sent them as a pledge of his intention to raise the ransom money.

The public prosecutor at Tempio Pausanias today notified the men they would be charged

Princess Beatrix becomes Dutch Queen on April 30

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam, Feb 1

Crown Princess Beatrix will become Queen of the Netherlands on April 30, the day on which her mother, Queen Juliana, officially abdicates. It is also the present Queen's birthday when she will be 71 years old.

This was announced tonight by Mr Andries van Aart, the Prime Minister.

Dutch monarchs are not crowned or enthroned but are confirmed as sovereign at a special meeting of the States General in Amsterdam. This is combined with a meeting of the upper and lower Houses of Parliament.

The installation of the new monarch does not necessarily have to take place on the day of the abdication of the previous monarch, by signing the act of abdication the heir automatically assumes the throne.

The installation of the new queen will take place in the so-called New Church which is actually one of the oldest churches in Amsterdam.

There were many expressions of gratitude for the years, more than 31, that the Queen had devoted to her people. Mr van Aart speaking on radio and

television immediately after Queen Juliana's announcement said: "The affection we have for our Queen makes it difficult to accept that her parting is now near."

These sentiments were underlined by Mr Joop den Uyl, the Labour opposition leader and former Prime Minister, who said the Queen "had acted with great wisdom in her role as Queen of the Netherlands."

The Dutch Communist Party expressed the "respect and appreciation" it had always had for the Queen.

Confidence about the approaching reign of Princess Beatrix was expressed by Mr Hans Wiegels, the Deputy Premier. "We all know how well she has prepared herself for her coming task," he said.

The Dutch newspapers today devoted a lot of space to the Queen's announcement. They addressed themselves, among other things, to the question "What sort of Queen will Princess Beatrix turn out to be?"

The Crown Princess has once answered this question by saying that she will not try to emulate her mother but the differences in character were too great.

Leading article, page 13

Military aid from France confirmed by Tunisia

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Feb 1

Mr Hedi Nouri, the Tunisian Prime Minister, confirmed today on Radio Monte Carlo that France had immediately responded to his request for assistance after Sunday's terrorist attack on Gafsa, and dispatched naval units to the area, as well as helicopters and transport aircraft.

The three surface vessels and four submarines patrolling in the western Mediterranean were "a very important and valuable presence," Mr Nouri said.

The French Defence Ministry denied press reports, however, that units of the 11th Parachute Regiment stationed at Pau had been sent out to reinforce Tunisian troops in the Gafsa area.

The Tunisian authorities deny that the three Transall transport aircraft and two Puma helicopters took a direct part in the mopping up operations against the insurgents, who had already been effectively neutralized. The aircraft only helped to evacuate the wounded.

The aircraft were sent within the framework of the technical cooperation agreement between the two countries—France has no defence agreement with Tunisia.

The French provides for the dispatch of French military advisers and supply of arms and equipment for the Tunisian forces. There are at present about 100 French advisers in the country.

The 7,000-strong Tunisian army is apparently short of military transport aircraft, hence the request for French assistance.

The Tunisian forces appear to have the military situation under control. Algeria, per se, has been a factor in the Government was now concerned with the ramifications of the plot, which was believed to have been inspired by Libya, but remote-controlled from Moscow.

A plot to destabilize Tunisia existed, he claimed, ever since the abortive attempt at unification between Libya and Tunisia in 1972.

The attackers of Gafsa, equipped with very sophisticated Russian weapons, were infiltrated from Algeria, per se, by the complicity of local Algerian elements, but certainly not of Algeria, in order to create trouble between the two countries, he added. Relations between Algeria and Tunisia have notably improved recently.

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OVERSEAS



Diplomats home: The six Americans who escaped from Iran arrive home at the State Department, Washington, to jubilant cheers yesterday but an even greater welcome was given to Mr Gilles Matheiu, Canada's Chargé d'Affaires. The six are, from the left: Mr Robert Anders, Kathleen and Joseph Stafford, Cora and Mark Lijek

and Henry Lee Schatz. It was the first public appearance the group has made since flying into Dover Air Force base on Wednesday and Mr Anders, the senior official among the six, read a statement for all of them.

In his statement, Mr Anders explained how they escaped. "When the embassy was overrun on November 4,

five of us were working in the consular section at the rear of the embassy compound, some distance from the chancery where the main attack was centered. Thus, we were able to leave the premises unobserved. We made our way to our homes or the home of friends. As the situation became more tense, we were able to move to Canadian premises where we remained."

President Carter faces a new generation of draft protesters

From Michael Leisman, New York, Feb 1

President Carter's suggestion that it might be necessary to reintroduce conscription has provoked growing protests on American college campuses in the week since he made it. Students and professors, who have lain dormant since the early seventies, are being given expression by young people—women as well as men this time—who do not want to be forced to join the armed forces.

his State of the Union address last week the President said he would seek authority to renew the registration of people eligible for conscription, or the draft.

He added that this was a measure of preparedness and he hoped that nobody would actually have to be called up.

The protests took a few days of this week dozens of colleges across the country had been affected by them. "Hell, no, we won't go—the slogan of the anti-draft movement during the Vietnam War—was being chanted again by a new generation of students.

Reports of rallies came from Iowa, Michigan, Connecticut,

Ohio and Massachusetts, and more are scheduled for this weekend in California, Texas and Missouri.

At Columbia University, New York, the scene of some of the most publicized anti-war rallies in the late sixties, there was a scuffle between protesters and a smaller group of students who supported the draft.

During the fight, an American flag, which had been carried by the pro-draft group, was burnt by some of the protesters, who numbered several hundred. A member of the New York City Council told the rally: "The President has made the young people of America and their families and friends pawns in his pursuit of re-election."

If young men are required to register, young women may have to do so as well this time. Mrs Rosalynn Carter, the President's wife, said she is in favour of this, and the President is believed to agree.

This proposal is being opposed both by groups which support women's equality and those who oppose it. The latter believe that it may be used by the backers of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)—which would enshrine equal rights in the Constitution—as ammunition

in their campaign to get the amendment ratified in sufficient states to make it law.

Supporters of ERA, however, argue that until the amendment is law and women have equal rights with men, they should not be made to fulfil equal obligations. In Washington yesterday some leaders of the women's movement met to express that view.

Mrs Bella Abzug, a former member of Congress from New York, said: "Women will never shirk their responsibility to this country but I think it is hypocritical and cynical after our working all these years for economic equality and inclusion in decision-making to ask women to demonstrate our equality of sacrifice instead."

Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, said that the registration of women was a matter for Congress. He did not think it would be approved.

In a poll taken by the Associated Press and NBC News 78 per cent of those questioned said they were in favour of draft registration and 17 per cent were against it. On drafting women, 50 per cent were for it and 45 per cent against it.

Soviet block puts off Bonn talks

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 1

A sudden twist appeared to fall over West German discussions with East Europe this week after three communist countries put off ministerial contacts with Bonn.

The Czechoslovak Government postponed a planned visit to Prague by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, asked Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, if they could put off fixing a date for their forthcoming meeting. Yesterday Mr Frigyes Pujós, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, called off a visit to Bonn on February 7.

The Soviet Union also asked to postpone a meeting of the Soviet-West German trade commission.

On the western side Count Lambdorff, the Economics Minister, put off talks in Poland, and Herr Herbert Ehrenberg excused himself from a trip to the Soviet Union.

The postponements have, however, been accompanied by assurances that the countries concerned are anxious to maintain good relations and have the meetings for some later date. On less conspicuous levels business between the two blocks is continuing as normal.

Both Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher have repeatedly emphasized the importance they attach to keeping contacts open with the communists after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. But the East Europeans' reluctance to talk is being taken into account.

It is believed here that the standstill in ministerial exchanges has been ordered by the Soviet Union while it digests the reaction to its behaviour in Afghanistan.

Mr Kennedy hits at Carter 'war hysteria'

Washington, Feb 1—Senator Edward Kennedy today accused the Carter Administration of generating war hysteria over Soviet moves towards the Gulf area.

Mr Kennedy, who appears to be trailing the President badly in their race to become the Democratic Party's Presidential candidate this year, said the United States seemed unable to find the support it needed from Nato allies Japan, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations to meet the Soviet threat.

He was commenting on remarks made in India yesterday by Mr Clark Clifford, President Carter's special envoy, who said: "They (the Soviet Union) must know that if part of their plan is to move toward the Persian Gulf that means war."

Today Mr Kennedy said in a television interview: "I am strongly opposed to unilateral action by the United States in that part of the world."

"We do have vital interests

and they must be secured. But that kind of talk is getting us very close to a war-type of hysteria."

He added: "I think there is a war hysteria in this country now."

Senator Kennedy was campaigning in New England, where he will face Mr Carter in two important primary elections this month.

Polls show the President leading by nearly two-to-one in one of the primary states, New Hampshire, about the same as his margin of victory in Iowa last week.—Reuters.

Insurgents trained by American combat troops may have arrived in Pakistan to train Afghan insurgents fighting the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, the *Times* of India reported today.

Working side-by-side to arm and train the tribesmen, the paper said, Pakistan, the United States and China were trying to bring them together under some sort of unified command.—Agence France-Presse.

China and Japan join Olympics boycott

Continued from page 1

it was clearly inappropriate to hold the summer Olympics in the Soviet capital "while the Soviet Union continues to occupy Afghanistan in disregard of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly."

The statement continued: "We support the call on the International Olympic Committee to decide on the transfer or cancellation of the games, and we will work to promote such a decision."

In case the International Olympic Committee fails to make such a decision, the Chinese Government will ask the Chinese Olympic Committee to consider seriously staying away

from the twenty-second summer Olympic Games in Moscow.

This statement said the Chinese Government "is prepared to consult with other countries on this question so as to take necessary measures in concert with them."

China's *Sports Daily* published photographs of Adolf Hitler giving the Nazi salute at the 1936 summer Olympics and said world opinion would not tolerate a replay of the Berlin games in Moscow this year.

Carters under the photographs said that two months after the 1936 Olympics, "the executioner Hitler" sent troops to fight for the fascists in the Spanish Civil War.

Zaire said: Zaire will not participate in the Moscow games, announced in Kinshasa.

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Guatemala embassy protester is abducted

Guatemala City, Feb 1—

About 15 heavily armed men stormed a hospital in Guatemala City today and carried off the lone survivor of the three dozen protesters who died in a fire at the besieged Spanish Embassy on Thursday.

It was not known whether the abductors were comrades of the man, who was badly burned, or members of Guatemala's Right-wing "death squads," which have allegedly killed and kidnapped hundreds of Guatemalans opposed to the Government.

The embassy fire started after police attacked the burning on Thursday to drive out protesters who had seized it earlier in the day. Thirty-nine people died in the embassy.

Guatemalan authorities blamed the deaths on a blast started by a firebomb hurled by one of the protesters. But the Spanish Ambassador, one of only two survivors, said gunfire started as the police smashed into the embassy lobby.

The man abducted today was identified as Señor Gregorio Chuyá, a peasant. The protesters said they were all peasants from northern Guatemala and had been demanding an end to what they said was Government repression in the area.—AP.

Links severed: Spain broke off diplomatic relations with Guatemala today over the storming of the Spanish Embassy (Harry Debelius writes from Madrid).

A communiqué issued after an emergency Cabinet meeting in Madrid said relations between the two countries would cease until Spain receives a clear and acceptable explanation of the police assault and the subsequent fire in which the ambassador, Señor Maximino Cajal, narrowly escaped death.

According to the Government, Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Foreign Minister, telephoned the Guatemalan Foreign Minister soon after he learned of the occupation of the embassy by farmworkers and told him that Spain did not want the police to enter the embassy.

The official communiqué said that Señor Cajal had repeatedly to reach the Guatemalan Interior Minister and the director general of the police with the same message, and that he told police surrounding the embassy to go away and not to enter the building.

Guatemalan officials denied that police brutality led to the fire in the Spanish Embassy and said terrorists were responsible for the deaths.

A government sponsored broadcast called the deaths a "terrorist massacre" and urged the government to reach the Guatemalan Interior Minister and the director general of the police with the same message, and that he told police surrounding the embassy to go away and not to enter the building.

The government broadcast said that when the police arrived the Indians responded by throwing petrol bombs at them and setting a room on fire.—UPI.

Rebuke from former US envoy

New York, Feb 1—Mr George Kennan, a former United States Ambassador to Moscow, said today that the Carter Administration had overreacted to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and created a dangerous war atmosphere.

Writing in *The New York Times*, Mr Kennan said: "We are now in the danger zone."

"I can think of no instance in modern history where such a breakdown in political communication and such a triumph of unrestrained military suspicions as now marks Soviet-American relations has not led, in the end, to armed conflict."

Referring to the Carter Administration's reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Mr Kennan said: "The danger is heightened by the fact that we do not know, at this time, with whom we really have to deal with at the Soviet end."

"If there ever was a time for realism, prudence and restraint in American statesmanship, it is this one."

Mr Kennan said that Washington, with its open discussions of the possible military responses, had created a war atmosphere in which anything could happen.

Mr Kennan, who as a State Department official and later as Ambassador to Moscow in the 1950s, helped to formulate the Truman Administration's policy of "containing" the Soviet Union, said the assumption Moscow was now interested in moving towards the Gulf was one made by the United States alone.

He said this assumption was a distortion of Soviet motives and had led to a "disquieting lack of balance" among American officials who were now considering military action with Iran.

"Never since World War Two has there been so far-reaching a militarization of thought and discourse in the capital," he said.

An unsuspecting stranger, plunged into its midst, could only conclude that the last hope of peaceful, non-military solutions had been exhausted—that from now on only weapons, however used, could count.—Reuters.

Jail clash deaths

Dacca, Feb 1—Three prisoners were killed when clashes broke out today inside the Dacca Jail, about 50 miles north west of Dhaka. Fighting broke out after orders for the transfer of some prisoners to other centres in Bangladesh.

Saturday Review

A Young Indian Civilian by Humphrey Trevelyan

I was at Cambridge in the late twenties when nobody talked politics. I was not a political animal—I had never once spoken at the Union and it was before the political years of the thirties, but I followed my family's devotion to old-fashioned liberalism. I had no special vocation for an Indian career. After I had got a first in ancient history my supervisor wasted me to take up an academic career, but that did not attract me, nor did business or the Home Civil Service. So I more or less drifted towards India and when I had passed that formidable examination of 15 three-hour papers, as it was then, there was no going back. In due course the fairy—or was it the witch?—touched her wand, and I was transported straight from a season's climbing in the Alps to the pinless sun of the East, to another world which I knew I must attack and defeat. It was all so unattractive in that Madras hotel, the heat, the harsh light, the mosquito nets, those abominable wicker chaises-longues, hideously uncomfortable, however one approached them, the electric fans scattering the papers, the air of hopelessness of the emaciated figures sweeping the verandahs. I felt myself enveloped in a debilitating lassitude and asked myself over and

over again: Why had I come? Was this to be my whole life?

I was met by immediate kindness, being removed from the hotel to the house of a senior English member of the Madras secretariat, but that only increased my depression. My hosts were so kind, but they belonged to and were obviously happy in this strange world, for which I could feel no sympathy. I soon realized that there were two separate societies, British and Indian, which only mixed on an official plane. I was put up for the Madras Club, which no Indian might penetrate, however distinguished in the British service, save the horde of servants in their white linen hats and swirling skirts, looking like the figures in a Daniel print.

I had made friends with two Indians from Madras who were entering the service with me and who during the voyage had invited me to visit their families. I went to their houses, though my English hosts clearly thought me a queer fish for going. Both families welcomed me. The Tamil Brahmin family made me feel hopelessly alien. I was never going to penetrate their society. The other family, Nayers from the west coast, were easier. As often among the matrilineal Nayers the father was only a shadow passing through the house; the mother was the pivot of the family, with an intense, vivid personality which her gregarious extrovert son had inherited. A good deal of Western culture had rubbed off on him during his stay at Oxford, but, however much I enjoyed the warmth of their welcome, I felt that even there there was a barrier which I would not be able to overcome.

Custom required that I should drive round the houses of the mandarins of the civil service in the heat of the day, pushing my visiting cards through the slits in the boxes to be found at every gate, a journey enlivened by the cheerful assumption of the

taxi-driver that luck would make up for total ignorance of the way, as I went round and round, I ruminated on my new social surroundings. What could I make of them? It was not just the question of club membership about which I had not yet made up my mind; it was the unnatural association of a rigidly closed community of British civil servants at the top, then the soldiers and lastly the "box wallahs" that is, the merchants and industrialists but not the retailers who didn't qualify—no different in essence from their friends and relations in Essex or Surbiton, but convinced of their racial superiority—and an as rigidly closed community of Indians, or rather a number of mutually exclusive Indian communities based on caste, each side being members of the "establishment" for official purposes, but neither wanting to assimilate themselves to the other by their own customs and beliefs or wanting to have too much to do with the other outside the office and official functions. Of course, there were exceptions, but this was the underlying pattern. Neither side made any real effort to get out of the strait-jacket of conflicting backgrounds and if the British were most at fault in their feeling of belonging to a superior race, they had looking-glass logic on their side, for if they were not superior, what were they doing in India anyway?

Perhaps, I thought, it would be easier when I got into the country and began work. I arrived just before Christmas at the Collector's bungalow in the headquarters of the district to which I had been posted as assistant collector. It took me only a few minutes to realize that there was no point in common, no possibility of a sympathetic relationship between me and the Collector, the head of the district administration, for whom I was to work. The Collector said: "How do you do; this is my wife: we are going to Madras for Christmas, so you can't stay here, but the judge will put you up and you will have the holidays in order to get to know the station." I was full of interest in my new job and had thought I was going to be encouraged to get to know the district. It was a most unimpressive start. The judge and his wife were good, kind people, but desperately dull, tied by long habit to the dreary routine of the place, early morning tea and hard toast at 6.30 a.m., breakfast-lunch at 10 a.m., Court until 5 p.m., club for

several hours and a late dinner, mostly of tough chicken and caramel custard.

I hated the club and all that it stood for. Of course, I was prickly and unreasonable; my hosts were patient and tolerant, if not wholly understanding. I woke up every morning in a mood of despair. Instead of going to the club in the evenings, I ossementiously stayed at home and read Shakespeare, borrowed a motor-cycle and scoured a neighbouring out-crop of the Nilgiri hills, slithering down eighty feet and stopping myself by a miracle just above a precipice. I would not have cared if I had gone over. I saw only black desolation around and ahead of me.

For the next three months I was totally ignored by the Collector, except once when I was reprimanded for signing a letter with a mistake in it. The man was an unpleasant brute. But I found pleasure in improving my Tamil by conversation with my clerk. The clerk was a funny little man, with the front half of his scalp shaven and the hair from the back half left long and tied with a ribbon. He told me of his pilgrimage to a famous shrine, two steps forward and one backward, with an instrument in his mouth which prevented speech—shades of Paganini—to be taken out and dedicated to the god after a ceremonial bath at the shrine. He described how the Brahmins had exorcised an evil spirit which was possessing his mother. They drew a circle round her and intoned their sacred formulas all night, beating her, until in the morning, the spirit gave his name and thereby lost his power and departed. Was it not, I thought, the same form of Eastern exorcism as the story of Job wrestling with the angel?

I had just started my career as a magistrate—the first case was of a woman who suckled her baby throughout the prosecution—when a kindly fate intervened. The brute was transferred, promoted to court. I had to be fair to the man. He was a brute, but he was a worthy brute, dead honest and doing his work competently. Perhaps it had been in a way easier for my great-uncle a century before when his first post had got his superior officer dismissed for bribery. There was no reason to dismiss this man. A hundred years before too a young civilian would probably have been convinced that God had sent him to work for the welfare of the Indians, a belief which gave a religious backing to the idea of the superiority of the English.

The brute's successor was far from being a brute. He was an attractive man, divorced and with an eye for feminine charm, having plenty of charm himself. He realized at once that what I needed was to have something of my own to do. So he sent me to investigate the condition of a primitive tribe in a malarial tract in a cove of the southern hill ranges. Life began to be more interesting. They were the poorest of the poor, scarcely human I thought, as I followed them through that forgotten jungle. Little black men dressed only in a loin cloth, but they represented a human problem, even if I had no solution for it. At least, I was at last in contact with reality.

On my return I was encouraged to travel round the district. I tried my best to find something attractive about these dusty plains and ugly villages, with all the filth coming from the habit of the villagers to do their morning duty among the prickly pear bushes round about the villages. Those bushes with their savage thorns, symbolized for me the uninviting appearance of village life in that district, and the Tamil expressions for the villagers' daily concerns, rise hand for the right and shit hand for the left. But I found the revenue work interesting and it had the advantage of being practical work on behalf of people who needed an efficient and sympathetic administration to support them. It was a job worth doing, if not by me. I began to take a positive view of my new life, though I could not say I found it attractive. But perhaps it was after all better

than commuting every day to the city or teaching history to successive generations of undergraduates who had the disquieting habit of always remaining the same age while one was getting older. Even at headquarters life was improving. I had made one Indian friend who gave me a new interest in the study of the Roman trading colony which had flourished a few miles away. I thought they probably had their own club and behaved much like their English successors.

Then, suddenly, I was sent for a few months to Ootacamund, the famous hill station in the Nilgiri hills. Macaulay, who visited it in the 1830s, described the scenery as the vegetation of Windsor or Blenheim, spread over the mountain. Ootacamund, and the "station" as having very much the look of an English watering place. A hundred years later it still had that look. I knew for the first time the lifting of the spirit which the heat and ugliness of the hill, driving round the hair-pin bends up and up until he emerges into a new world of Conoor and then up another thousand feet on the plateau to Ootacamund with its fringe of tall eucalyptus trees and the gardens of the bungalows spilling over with "rose trees of a size more fitted for an orchard than a flower-bed and bushes of heliotrope 30 paces round."

A hundred years later, the downs were still bare hills of great beauty, furnished only with clumps of indigenous trees and the beehive huts of the Todas, the earliest known inhabitants of the hill who still lived there, that strange tribe which seemed to have no connexion with the teeming millions of farmers and peasants below. Ootacamund was a typical English country community, with the Ooty hounds, the race course and golf course, the shooting and fishing, the amateur theatricals, the government officials up for the summer complete with clerks and files, and coffee and tea plantations round the country around who lived a hard, open life for 51 weeks of the year and remained happily drunk throughout the fifty-second, known as planters' week.

The club where I was installed was strictly confined to the British, like the clubs on the plains, but it did not dominate local society in a place where you would meet the Prince and the suites at the races and the suites at the meetings of the bounds at the course and on the golf course and in their own houses. One did not seem to be really in India. That, at least, was how it seemed to me and I found it much easier to take it as it was than an English community down below.

A thousand miles away the civil disobedience movement was raging as Gandhi led his famous "salt-march" but the echoes of it penetrated only faintly to the distant refuge in the hills. It all seemed to be happening in another country. My sole duty was to decipher the telegrams from Simla, which poured in every night, marked immediate. With the hearty approval of my masters in the Government, I was always suspicious of anything emanating from Simla; I learnt by experience that none of the telegrams were in the least urgent and that I could safely leave them by my bed until the next morning. I was soon able to sign for them in my sleep and woke up in the morning to observe with interest how large a pile I had collected during the night.

In due course, as soon as the point-to-point was over, the Government and the red boxes disappeared back to the plains and I found myself in a sort of pretty deserted cantonment near Madras, reunited for a few weeks with my Indian friends for a training course in revenue work. There was one outstanding man among them, a Madras Brahmin with all the subtlety of mind of his people, but sensitive to the extreme to the implications, which faced him continually,

that he belonged to an inferior race. He was prickly and difficult and my efforts to gain his confidence progressed only slowly. The Indian boy felt he must do what his English colleagues did and disdained to take advice. So he had to ride away with him in a coconut grove and smashed his head against a tree. The family came to see where it had happened. The English kept away; the Indians with intense curiosity followed closely through-out. Perhaps the English attempt to show tact and sympathy was interpreted as lack of heart.

In my first executive post there was no British club, because there were no British, the only Europeans being two solid Dutchman making camp. That was a relief. In the hill-station in my division I stayed in the British club, because there was nowhere else to stay, but I had the pleasure of shocking the local British community by rowing round the lake with the oldest living President of the Congress party, then at war with the British, and his little grandson, both dressed in the Congress uniform of hand-made cloth and the Gandhi cap. I was still sorting out my ideas on the Indian scene. It showed good sense that in spite of the political quarrel the two communities were not hostile to each other. Perhaps more than one of them should have tried to integrate their habits and ways of thought were so far apart, and one could not get very far socially when so few of the Indian men would bring their wives out with them, especially if they had more than one. Perhaps all that was needed was for each community to have their own clubs, but to be able to invite guests from the other community. It all came from the improbable legacy of history by which the British came to an island in the north had conquered these vast oriental kingdoms. I was beginning to think, would it not be better for the English to leave the Indians to run their affairs in their own way, even if the English did not think they would do it very well?

I was happy enough meanwhile because I was working ten hours a day seven days a week. The police were efficient, tough and only dishonest within limits. They kept the peace. Sometimes, they used false evidence to convict a man whom they knew to be guilty. If they could not get evidence against a powerful rogue, they would "drag" him, as they called it, that is, take him as far as the High Court, so that he had to pay a large amount to the lawyers to get off. I was trying desperately to be fair. Sometimes I had to convict a man on the basis of false evidence, because I had no way of showing that it was false. Once I was caught in an impossible situation. The only English landowner in the district asked me to postpone a case until after the local election, but the response was to hurry it on. Another man had been convicted by the sessions judge on basically the same evidence; but the evidence was clearly false and I would have to acquit. Then came an anonymous letter accusing me of being about to acquit in response to the Englishman's intervention. Living alone, I felt acutely distressed day and night. I was saved by being transferred before the case finished. Of course, they said that I was being transferred owing to my conduct in it. I learnt too that a government in India cannot rely on the information given to it by its subordinates. I had been working for a few months in the Political Department in Madras, which had to reply to allegations by Congress members of the Madras Assembly that Congress volunteers were being beaten in the police stations. The department obtained information from the districts that the allegations were false and replied accordingly. When I returned to my post in the country, I told this to the deputy commissioner of police. The policeman, a good and fair man, replied that of course they beat the Congressmen in the police stations. They were hooligans paid to make trouble in the guise of political volunteers. If the police beat them in the streets

as they were entitled to do when they were disturbing the peace, local opinion would strongly object; but everyone approved of their being beaten, provided no one could see it. I had to reply to the policeman that it must not go on; but I knew that he could not stop it. Probably, I thought, the public view was right. Perhaps too it was the best solution that local opinion should be respected while the government should remain in happy ignorance of what was really happening.

This conversation turned my thoughts to what has been called the other side of the medal. There had been atrocities on both sides, in the Muziny in particular, when the Nana Sahib's massacre of the women and children at Cawnpore had been revenged in full measure by the British troops. I had heard talk in Ootacamund how in 1919 General Dyer had convicted himself at the enquiry on the event which had gone down to history as the Amritsar massacre. The evening before Dyer was to speak in his own defence, his friends in the club in Lahore had told him that all he had to say was that he had used what he considered to be the minimum force necessary to control the situation, but the next day he had foolishly said that he had wanted to strike a blow which would resound throughout India, which was not his business.

Most curious was the parallel between the black hole of Calcutta and the Malabar train tragedy, both probably caused by stupidity and fear, rather than sheer brutality. The Moghals during their revolt had killed and mutilated many Nayers in Malabar. The prisoners, dangerous men, were put into cattle trucks on the train, which the vendors had been recently peopled over. The sergeant in charge heard cries when the train stopped on the way, but dared not let the prisoners loose. At their destination they had been pulled out of the train, dead or dying. I had read the story in the Government records and noted the comment of the Member of Council: "This will cause the devil of a ha-ha." But, I thought, it was strange how little of the incident was remembered less than a century later. On the whole, the British record in dealing with political demonstrators and their treatment of prisoners was good and their political opponents knew it. I could not foresee that Indian independence would be accomplished 17 years later with the quarrel of a million people in communal violence nor the horror in store for the Jews in Europe.

My stay of a few months in Madras had shown me that they were men of character and intellect at the top of the service who lived in those great eighteenth-century merchants' houses. I stayed for a time with the Chief Secretary who lived in a splendid house built over the river Adyar, containing a fine collection of pictures and prints of Madras of the period of the house and a superb example of a Cola statue. In the morning the Chief Secretary would appear on the top step of the fine staircase leading down from the front door, dressed impeccably in silk suit, Old Etonian tie and furry white topee. A petition would be handed to him. He would adjust his monocle, glance at it and hand it to his servant who had probably been paid one rupee by the petitioner and who would perhaps recommend that the petition be sent to the Board of Revenue. It was a totally irregular procedure, but satisfied everybody, for it represented personal contact between Government and subject. It was a newly observed dimension of life in Madras to be noted, a new step in my reconciliation with the new world.

On leaving this post I was succeeded by a Brahmin of my year in the service. I remembered this man as having invited his English colleagues in the training camp to watch him eat his separate meal, dressed only in his dhoti, a form of skirt, and the Brahmin thread put on him at puberty. It had seemed to be a way of asserting his superiority since now that he was back in India he could only eat food cooked by his Brahmin cook and the English had to keep at a proper distance so as not to defile it. I waited till after midday to hand over, since the Brahmins had declared that that was the most auspicious time for it; but their calculations seem to have gone wrong since, soon after, the new sub-collector was under inquiry for falsifying his claim to travelling allowance.

As soon as I saw my new home, a desolate little port on the east coast, my heart sank. I could find no redeeming feature in it. It lay in a district in which the missionaries had been most active. One village had nine distinct Christian sects in it, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Church Missionary Society, both Anglican institutions, being regarded as distinct

sects. Not surprisingly, the great majority of the converts were members of the depressed classes who could by conversion achieve a better status in this world as well as in the next. One tiny village had a large church with a hole in the roof and no worshippers, built at a time of famine when the Indian gods were asleep and deserted after the next good harvest when they seemed to have woken up again. Nor did it surprise me, as I tried a riot case, when Indian priests, Catholic and Protestant, each swore to the contradictory version of the events put forward by their flock, though one of them must have been lying. They could hardly have kept their congregations if they had not supported them in Court. Was it historical prejudice that made me feel that the Protestants normally kept closer to the truth?

I could not but admire the devotion of the Catholic missionaries from Europe. They lived the life of the villagers by whom they were surrounded, with a stipend that allowed no more than that, and might perhaps have to stay in their posts for ten or twenty years before being given a chance to see their families at home. Was it not sensible of them to build their churches like Hindu temples and so order their processions on the great festivals that little difference could be observed between St. Anthony and Krishna? The Anglican missionaries, with their Gothic churches looking out of place in the home of Hinduism, worthy men straight from Oxbridge and Cuddesdon and learned in the history of the early fathers and their theological controversies, never seemed to have quite divorced themselves from ecclesiastical life at home, but they knew what they were doing in forming the Church of South India and so, unforgiving the protestant sect, giving their national foundation. I could no longer believe in the absolute truth of Christianity and therefore the absolute falsity of Hinduism, but the missionaries, though competing for converts, were at least able to give some hope in life to the poor wretches who could often take no water even for drinking until it had irrigated the fields of the caste Hindus, and could perform only the most menial and repulsive tasks.

After three months of this desolate port, I left the south for the more congenial life in the Indian States. My last impression was of a little village of an exclusive caste, surrounded by a wall no more than ten feet high, which, no one, not even the police, passed, other than those who belonged inside. The men came out every day to cultivate their fields; the women never came outside for the whole of their lives. It seemed so intolerable, but not to those who had accepted it from birth as a way of living and who would regard efforts at reform as an impertinent interference in their lives.

What had I learnt in those three years in the south? Some humility before those Englishmen who spent most of their working lives in those little towns lost in the immensity of India, in an atrocious climate, without recreation beyond a few days after snipe and the routine of tennis and bridge at the local club, and who in retirement never really reintegrated themselves in life at home. They were often narrow and rigid in their prejudices, but they served their country and India well. I knew that I had not the strength of character to persevere in their dreary and thankless task. I had learnt too that the unequal relations between British and Indians sprang from history and that the time was coming when the British ought to leave if they could succeed without leaving themselves in a state of irreconcilable strife behind. Meanwhile, I could understand the strength of Indian nationalism and at the same time applaud the love of Indians in the employment of the British to the service which they had accepted as their career against all the weight of nationalist opinion. In the old phrase they were true to their salt. There was, I recognized, much that was good in Indian life, and though social reform was badly needed, it could not go far under the British. It needed the impulse which could only be given by an Indian government. The British had planted a democratic system, but had buttressed it with traditional Indian autocracy. The Indians would have to find their own way ahead.

And so, I felt that I had come to terms with my new life, and that the best description of the British attitude in the old and new generations was the verse written by a scholarly British High Court judge: Efficiency, a flame, no less. Would guide them through the But we, a lesser breed, confess To sympathy, a cloud. This extract is taken from Public and Private, by Humphrey Trevelyan, which will be published by Hamish Hamilton on February 28 at £8.95.



A young man's view of British India



Paperbacks of the month

مكتبات الأصيل

Master's voice

P. G. WODEHOUSE: *Company for Henry: A Pelican at Blarney* (Penguin, 95p and £1.25).

Penguin have recently been storing up riches for themselves in the hereafter (and probably not doing their immediate finances any harm) by reissuing Wodehouse in paperback at the rate of one a month. Here are two country-house sagas from the late nineteenth century, neither of them first-class but both studded with vintage moments.

Company for Henry opens unpromisingly. There's nothing wrong with the situation: actor unexpectedly inherits architecturally ruinous mansion which he hopes to sell to rich American relative. The early locations—Sussex and Valley Fields (Dulwich)—and minor characters—jolly slip-of-a-mince encumbered with westerly brooder and not fiancé—also bode well. But Wodehouse is obviously bored with the unwilling man of property before the story begins, so the early writing is flat, the humour forced, and the reader lowers his expectations, reluctantly accepting that even

the best of us have off-days. O ye of little faith! "And now the minstrel, tuning his harp, prepares to sing of J. Wendell Slickney." At these, the opening words of Chapter 3, the experienced Wodehouse's heart leaps, recognizing instantly that The Master has tipped through the gears from first to top. As so often, the transformation is signalled by bathos and accomplished by chance of scene in New York where the eventual focus of the machine is preparing for his trip to England, accompanied by a delinquent aunt (a rarity in the Wodehouse canon of aunts) and a disapproving valet.

Things hot up at Ashby Parade on their arrival, and the company is soon reinforced by a brace of impostors, a temporary butler suffering from terminal depression ("But Mr Fens, if these were no marriages, what would become of posterity?"), and an appalling stockbroker, described as the sort of man who calls you "lad" and begs to stop him if you've heard this one, well knowing that nobody within the memory of man has ever stopped him telling a story. Eighteenth century

paper-weights get stolen (though with their owner's consent), marauders prowl in the moonlight, vicar organizes school-treats, and there is an engaging oddity in the shape of a bailiff with a pathological urge to propose to cooks whenever the conversation flags.

An objective critic would doubtless point to similarities in the plotting of *Henry* and *A Pelican at Blarney*. In the latter, it is a picture which needs to be stolen, the American visitor is not quite what they seem, and impostors come, are exposed, and go only to return in yet more unlikely guises, with bewildering rapidity. The Empress refuses a possum, the Duke of Dunstable is thwarted from marrying above himself and from having Emsworth committed, and the course of true love is temporarily deflected by legal complications. The book opens with a rare glimpse of Clarence's idea of heaven—Blandings without secretaries or sisters where a man can dine off leg of lamb and rump, eat pudding in the library, and without changing out of his shooting-jacket—and ends with Gally fixing things to everybody's well, almost everybody's satisfaction.

John Nicholson

Fresh as first love

EDNA O'BRIEN: *The Country Girls: Girl with Green Eyes; Mrs Reinhardt and other stories* (Penguin, 95p each).

The Country Girls was the first novel Edna O'Brien wrote and it is now 20 years since the day it appeared. It has been reprinted again and again, rightly so, since the artlessness of her style and the awkward charm of her heroines are not the kind of things that are diminished by fashion or time. Both *The Country Girls* and its sequel, *Girl with Green Eyes*, are about the eternally interesting subject of growing up, what is more growing up poor, alone, in Ireland, and in the fifties, a time well suited to Edna O'Brien's recurring theme that the world we live in is a world run by men for other men.

Caithleen and Baba are two childhood friends in a small Irish village, but while bumpy, gauche Caithleen has a father who drinks and a mother she loves and who is drowned, delicate Baba is spoilt, tyrannical and the daughter of a well-respected doctor. Out of this unbalance comes a friendship of sorts, that grows more even as the girls leave the safety of their village for

the horrors of convent life, and later the chancy encounters of a bed sitter and big time life in Dublin. It is not simply that these two books give a picture of adolescent love that avoids sentimentality and cliché by their freshness and clarity, but their best, they have it all, the anguish and the comedy, even the dry despair of a Jean Rhys afternoon in the bleakness of a London hotel room.

It is often said of Edna O'Brien that her heroine never changes. Caithleen does indeed grow up; she becomes, in successive novels and under other names, more sophisticated, more worldly, more mentally. But she is always the same woman, and like Caithleen, she believes that the only thing that really counts for a woman in the world is love, and that no man can either love or understand what it is all about, nor do much else than wreak emotional havoc. Indeed her male characters are rarely anything but drunken, cowardly or dictatorial. There is a premonition of this in *The Country Girls*: the film made with the foreign voice who seduces Caithleen is, for all his niceness, a betrayer. He is too insensitive, too careless of her emotions.

Reissued now with her first two books is a collection of Edna O'Brien's recent short stories, *Mrs Reinhardt and other stories*, most of them reprinted from the *New Yorker*, and bearing the mark of that

magazine's discipline. Whether because of this or because Miss O'Brien has become more economical in her writing, there is in these stories something of a return to the early Edna, a wryness and a vulnerability in the way she glimpses now older, view their own failure in the field where it mattered: love. The slightly earthy humour of *The Country Girls* is sad, not funny, neither is the insistence on lyricism and occasional curtness that plagued some of the fiction that has come in between. It is no longer funny, to laugh aloud; but the writing flows, with authority.

It is, these stories, seem to say, a hard world for women, just as hard as Baba and Caithleen thought it would be; harder, perhaps. Marriages are never what they might have been; happiness is difficult, that might have flowed, have not; and the comedy that went with youth has become, quite simply, too expensive. At best, all a woman can hope for is a tentative belief in the chances of her own survival. As Edna Mullaly, a woman disappointed both in her boorish husband and fickle lover puts it at the end of *A Woman by the Sea-side*: "She felt a strange peace as if she had found a new resource in herself and she prayed to God that it was not a passing thing and that on the morrow it would be there."

Caroline Moorehead

The golden road

A Time of Gifts, by Patrick Leigh Fermor (Penguin, £1.25).

"He is a dangerous mixture of sophistication and recklessness," said one of his school reports, unhelpfully, adding "which makes one anxious about his influence on other boys." What on earth was one to do with the lad? Intelligent, lively, perfectly capable of working when so inclined, one never knew what he was going to do next.

Expelled at 16 from the King's School, Canterbury, and on his way to the Army via a London crammer, he was always the youngest of his class and in London life still unpredictable (diving into a lake at a party and then remembering his borrowed tails) and then deciding that he would walk to Constantinople.

Setting out in the winter with a rucksack, old Army greatcoat, several jerseys, two white shirts and several flannel ones, a sleeping bag, *The Oxford Book of English Verse* and Volume 1 of the Loeb Horace, he took a boat for Holland and was off on a journey which was to last him, he did not know it, for four years.

He had a few introductions,

but relied on sleeping in cowsheds, haylofts, barns, and on one memorable occasion in an apothecary, practically swooning from the scent. He also slept in castles, between linen sheets, with the smell of beeswax and lavender. At one frightful flophouse his precious journal and everything else, apart from what he was wearing, was stolen. The weather was awful, but he was only 18, and everything was wonderful.

The book is a reconstruction, more than forty years later, of this trip, laced with recollections of other times past, the landscape viewed not only with his later literary associations, but also from the youthful Leigh Fermor's knowledge of painting. Holland was instantly friendly and familiar from long acquaintance with the Dutch masters. German painters, entirely new to him, were discovered with joy. He took enormous detours to view some local landmark of the arts. He managed all this on practically no money at all—a modest £4 being forwarded to him at monthly intervals at a selected spot. In Vienna the money ran out altogether, and in company with the adorable Konrad, a gentle character and con man (later in a tramp's hostel) he set about sketching the inhabitants for a small sum, and was saved by a cheque for £5 from his father, a belated 19th birthday present.

He must have been a most engaging young man. All the way from Holland to Hungary he met kindness, interest, and hospitality, sometimes from the very poor, and on one rather horrifying occasion from a fanatical working class Nazi whose room was decorated from top to bottom with pictures of Hitler and Nazi emblems, his SS uniform hanging on the wall. There were, it is clear, side to his journey. In 1934 most of his new found friends were liberally minded, but he could see the rise of the Nazis, and their attraction. The portrait of the people he met is the best of a marvellously personal book—there are passages of lyrical appreciation of the countryside in wonderful shades of purple prose, and the whole conveys a youthful enthusiasm and joie de vivre.

By some strange chance he recovered one of his journals, for the last part of the journey to Hungary, where he was poised with the magic words "To be continued." It may not have been good preparation for the peacetime British Army, which he never joined, but it certainly seems to have made for the young Major who, with other kidnapers the German General Kreipe commanding Crete in 1944 and smuggled him off the island.

Philippa Toomey

exhort the consumer to conserve, is undimmed, but his concern with the question of control of the multinational looks less and less important.

I am far from sure that Western governments faced in 1979, as he says "a growing nightmare of uncontrolled corporate power." The multinationals' passive support of peace, which so well has done them no good at all. The cutbacks in Iran and aggressive buying by a panic-stricken Japan have pushed Opec from the multinationals to independents, and an increased number of government to government deals. If governments wish to take control of their own supplies, increasingly they have the opportunity to do so. The multinationals are not so much leading the public into further into hapless dependence on oil as desperately searching for access to it at any price to preserve their market share. The power of the multinationals is on the slide. The real change of the 1979 energy crisis has been the lessening of the companies' role as international traders and the emergence of the producing countries as traders in their own right.

But whatever the defects of Mr Sampson's updating, *The Seven Sisters* as a whole still deserves the accolade given by another reviewer in this paper, five years ago.

Nicholas Hirst

In the pipeline

The Seven Sisters by Anthony Sampson (Coronet Books/Hodder and Stoughton, £1.50).

Such acclaim greeted the first publication of Anthony Sampson's work on oil multinationals that a chance of new assessment five years later of an updated paperback edition necessarily causes some trepidation. The Times, according to the back cover, believed the book to provide "the highest level of reading for those interested in the politics of oil." Much crude has flowed through the pipeline since then. The early chapters have stood the test of time well. The slightly racy style, with the descriptions of Arabs, Texans, oil tycoons and diplomats; the contrast of the hard American oil men with the Oxbridge-educated types at Shell, remains compelling reading. Mr Sampson has an exciting story of big business, intrigue, and international politics to tell, and he tells it well. On that level alone he gives a good read, but the updating by a single, rather short chapter, covering the lead up to the crisis in Iran and the subsequent plunging of the West into a second energy crisis, is less satisfactory than the full revision which is rather obviously needed.



Front teeth of a 1937 Ford from "American Grilles" by Pratoilillo and Salmieri, published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, £4.95.

Soft covers on a book tend to give the expectation without the reality of immediacy. By simply tagging on a chapter, Mr Sampson has been unable to relate the events since Iran to the arguments of the earlier chapters. His perception of the ambiguity of the multinationals' position, interested at one and the same time in short term trading profits and long term projects, of selling a product which at the same time they



Pegasus taking off from "Inventorum Natura", the remarkable expedition journal of Pliny the Elder alleged to have been discovered in Somerset. Equo similis erat, sed pinnis vespertilionis, cornibus cervi. Drawn by Una Woodruff, published by Paper Tiger. The natives hereabouts call these animals the Pegasi. Little is known of their habits, as they inhabit inaccessible heights of the mountains and are rarely seen.

Young man's dream

Paris Peasant, by Louis Aragon. Translated with an introduction by Simon Watson Taylor (Picador, £1.50).

"Here, surrealism resumes all its rights," wrote the 26-year-old poet Louis Aragon sitting down at one of the ancient wicker-work chairs of the ex-Dadaist Café Certe (Paris) in 1924. He was 31, and his first book, *Le Paysan de Paris*, was just published. It was a prose extravaganza inspired by his wide-eyed wanderings through the forgotten quarters of the post-war city in a long tradition of earlier literary fables—from Nerval of the *October Nights*, Baudelaire of *Paris Spleen*, and the then freshly disinterred Comte de Lautréamont.

In fact the two main parts of the text are based on fairly solid journalistic formulas: the first is a bit of detailed reportage on the shopkeepers and habits of a small place covered side street in the Eighth, scheduled for demolition and urban renewal (plus ça change),

the Passage de l'Opéra, with its seedy lodging houses, pungent hairdressers, cafes, shoeblacks, pipe makers, strip theatres, bookshops, and obliging Massage Mine Jehane, a wonderful evocation of *la vie entre les pils*, or life between the wrinkles. The second is a rather wilder account of an evening promenade with fellow surrealist André Breton through the Buttes-Chaumont, a park in the working class 19th arrondissement, with its artificial lake and sulphurous gaslamps, and notorious Bridge of Sighs. Both articles were originally serialized in monthly parts in the *Revue Européenne* (and are still best taken in small fixes), abruptly terminating with an outraged Letter to the Editor, which was of course written by Aragon himself.

Both *le passage* and *le parc* are also symbolic places, or mental dream theatres, with drawn from the logical, mundane life of the grand boulevards. They are places where "objects become transfigured" and the "locks guarding the secrets of the universe" may suddenly turn, and every day people and occurrences may open inwardly into the miraculous, the irrational, and the poetic, so that the "mythology of the modern" is revealed. So Aragon tells us—and occasionally shows us too. Though there is little evidence of the celebrated *écriture automatique* of the other surrealists, Aragon's style moves through

a dazzling range of mannerisms: at one moment simply transcribing verbatim the weird language of menu cards, fly posters, newspaper clippings, or municipal inscriptions; at the next vividly recounting conversations, anecdotes, or strange encounters (there is a memorable visit to the subterranean *Bugnes Publiques*, with its chimney-box construction of dark, clammy intercommunicating cubicles, full of ambiguous steamy possibilities). At its most extreme, he rises to dizzy flights of Hegelian philosophizing or plunges luxuriously into pulpy paragraphs of imaginary womanizing: the latter being characteristically full of blondes, butterfly wings, black cyclamen, bawl, stardust, stockings, and penitence—a sort of verbal Gustav Klimt.

Years later, after his sad break with Breton and his conversion to Communism, Louis Aragon gravely described *Paris Peasant* as the story of his mental evolution from a "mythological conception of the world to a materialist one." Don't believe a word of it. It is one more young man's dream of what Paris was going to give him before the age of thirty: Eugene de Rastignac would have recognised it just as easily as young Aragon's exact American contemporary, Jay Gatsby. I think the translator liked it too, though I am still wondering what "headache pencils" are.

Richard Holmes

Black man's burden

The African Condition (The Reith Lectures) by Ali A. Mazrui. (Heinemann, £2.95).

After a succinct but penetrating analysis of the problems and frustrations of the people of a continent containing 50 sovereign states, five colonial lingua franca and cultures, three rival religions, 500 vernaculars, two rival ideologies, one major and several minor racial conflicts with a race war in prospect, a congeries of tribal divisions, and all complicated by technical and social "backwardness", Professor Ali Mazrui argues that what Africa needs is some atomic bombs. Nigeria has the oil wealth to spend on them; Zaïre has the uranium to fuel them; and South Africa has the resources to construct them and delivery systems for them—and the coming revolution will place these resources in black power. Then "Africa" will be in position to order the nuclear powers to disarm, instead of "planning" to lay waste the world.

A few other things, the Professor told the Reith lecture audiences, were necessary to give Africa the place in the councils of mankind which is its due. The standard of living of the industrial and extravagant westerners has to be reduced so that Africa's (and the Third World's) will be able to compete. First the West is to be encouraged to be even more extravagant and wasteful of scarce resources so that Africa and other raw material

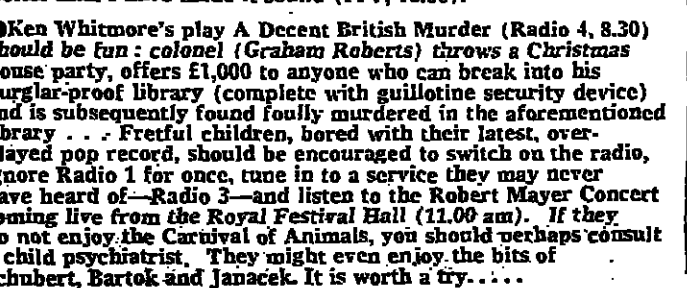
suppliers can improve their terms of trade under pressure of western demand, just as OPEC, whose success the Professor hails as the forerunner of tables to be turned on the West in time to come, is squeezing the gas-sucklers of America and the EEC (And OPEC's aid in Africa is apparently free of the strings or chains which neo-colonial aid entails). British trade union leaders, determined to "maintain our members' standard of living" as they say, are recommended to read pp. 114-115 of this book.

The Professor shares Kwame Nkrumah's dream of an Africa unified (somehow) and powerful, its humiliations ended and reversed. (It is now apparently respectable scholarship to attribute to continents, states and masses of diverse people the personal feelings of individuals who read history with indignation or suffer slights from hoteliers.)

Professor Mazrui takes full advantage of "Africa's" one incontestable advantage: to attribute almost every shortcoming or misfortune to the colonial ordeal of 1880 onwards (plus the slave trade—white, not Arab). This shrill, unrelenting bulks decisively in African apologetics as does no other colonial experience elsewhere. Why so crippling, so baleful? Others have survived such experiences, even digested them as acceptable nutrition. Can it be that some of the present discontents derive from the 2,000 years of "history" antedating the European slaver and colonialist? This shrill, unrelenting bulks decisively in African apologetics as does no other colonial experience elsewhere. Why so crippling, so baleful? Others have survived such experiences, even digested them as acceptable nutrition. Can it be that some of the present discontents derive from the 2,000 years of "history" antedating the European slaver and colonialist? 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RADIO

TELEVISION



WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE;
REPEAT.

Another romance adapted from the 1936 Molnar and directed by Charles Vidor, *Prince of Foxes* is impeding marriage to choose this royal romance as a suitable vehicle for her. The vintage Warner Brothers (co-) BBC 2, 6.05 with Edward Robinson for once on the side of the law, and Humphrey Bogart as a real meanie. As well as the

Lincoln Ventura as a weary old cop in "In pursuit of weary old monsterster Jean Gabin, and a despairing Aladdin Delon outclassed by both. 11.00p. Harrowhouse" (Monday, BBC 1, 9.25). is a cheerful British-based atheist film with performances by such British old masters as John Gielgud, James Mason and Trevor Howard. The lighter side of crime on surfaces in My Learned Friend (Thursday, BBC 2, 5.05). Will Hay's last vehicle and one of his best, in which he's a run-down barrister evading a vengeful old dicker.

ous Madame.
Bruce Beresford's *The Getting of Wisdom* (Tuesday, BBC 2, 9.00) is one of the most attractive films of the new Australian cinema, a lively and sensitive adaptation of a turn-of-the-century autobiographical novel about a girl with the dual disadvantage in a smart girl's school, of being both poor and clever. *Mame* (Wednesday, BBC 2, 8.25) flatters neither the original stage musical nor—despite a mist of soft focus—its star, Lucille Ball.

At London except: Starts 9.10 am *Be*
at Road: 9.35 *Fantasy Island*, 6.15 *P*
Film: *One More Train to Rio* (George
Peppard, Diana Mulga, John Ve-
**roni), 11.05 *Late Call*, 11.10 *Soa-*
11.35 *Luke's Kingdom*.**

HTV
At London excellent. Starting 9.10
am at West. 9.35. Locat. 5.15.
Doctors and Nurses. 5.30 Oh Ro.
6.00 Nanny Richards. 6.30 Film: Rald
Romney. 7.15. Richard. 7.10. Film
Lynett. Camp. David McCallum. Six
Stevens. Tellu S. Wales.
HTV CYMRU/VALES: As HTV recd
except 5.05. News follow
by Report Wales. 6.00 Start a Stan.
HTV WEST: No variations.

Grampian

As London recent. Starts 9.05
Bailey's Bird. 9.30 Science Street. 6
pm Film. On More Train to
Verona. Peppard Diana Maidan. 11
pm. 1.00 Search Liffen. 11
Film Code Name Diamond Head
Thimble. 12.40 am Reflections.

Southern

As London recent. Starts 8.45 am
Gulley. 9.10 Science Street. 10
Superman. 8.15 pm Film. San Antonio
Errol Flynn. 11.00 News 17
Film. Grip of the Stranger. 11.30
Carroll. 12.35 am Weather follow
by Goodbye Father.

TELEVISION

.45 The Big Match: Arguments from games of yesterday's big football games. With Brian Moore.

.45 Film: The Amazing Mr. Blunden (1971): Fantasy about a serial ghost (Laurence Naismith)

Liza Goddard: ITV, 8.45.

12.00 Close: Yehudi Menuhin reads his wife Diana an extract from War and Peace.

Challenge. 1.30 Farming Diary. 2.00
Cartoon. 2.15 Beachcombers. 3.45
Film: Bronx Jack Balance. 5.00 With
You Were Here? 7.15 Police Surgeon.
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As general
service except: 5.30 pm Ysgol Sul. 6.30
News followed by Report Wales.
HTV WEST: No variations.

Communion. 9.05 Better Read. 9.3
Numbers at Work. 11.30 Survival. 1.0
per Logan's Run. 1.55 Farm Progre
2.20 Bailey's Bird. 3.45 Sounds of
New Seekers. 4.00 Fantasy Island. 4.5
News. 5.00 Wish You Were Her
7.30 Pro-Celebrity Snooker. 12.15 a
Weather followed by Goodbye Father.

As London except. Starts 9.30 am Lin
11.00 Play Guitar II. 11.30 Brit
Read. 1.00 pm Numbers at Work. 1
Cartoon. 1.45 Farm and Country New
2.15 Wish You Were Here. 3.45 fill
Garry On Camping. Sidney James. K
neth Williams. 5.15 Cartoon. 11.
Sidesstreet. 12.25 am Faith for Life.

1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.

[illegible]

... ..

1. The first step is to identify the key components of the system. This includes understanding the hardware, software, and data involved. It also involves identifying the users and their roles.

[illegible]

... ..

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: **WALTER WELER**
Programme includes:
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4, K. 218
MAYUMI FUJIKAWA violin
HOLST Suite, The Planets
See RFL panel for details

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Conductor: **HARRY BLECH**
Programme includes:
MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor
BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 3 in E-flat major
PETER FRANKL piano
£1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

Philharmonia Orchestra
RICCARDO MUTI conducts
Sunday, 10 February at 7.30
Programme includes:
Salvatore Accardo piano
£3.00, £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents
Thursday, 14 February at 8
Programme includes:
Carl Pini piano
£4.50, £5.50, £6.50 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
(Principal Conductor: Claudio Abbado)
EDUARDO MATA
TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.
JOHN WILLIAMS
Programme includes:
Ravel: Alborada del Gracioso
Rodrigue: Concerto de Aranjuez
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 7
£4.50, £5.50, £6.50 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

BRUNO-LEONARDO GELBER
Programme includes:
Glenn Gould: Overture, Russian and Ludmilla
Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 3
Dvorak: Symphony No. 7
£3.50, £4.50, £5.50 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

DOKTOR FAUST
Busoni
"Doktor Faust is the greatest opera since Parsifal", Edward Saville West.

MICHAEL GIELEN
BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Cast includes: JANIS MARTIN, THOMAS HERNDON, PHILIP LANGRIDGE, BARRY MORA, GUNTER REICH, DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON, BBC SINGERS
£1.40, £2.10, £2.80, £3.50, £4.20, £4.90 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Mendelssohn: Ov. "The Hebrides"
Handel: Water Music Suite
Grieg: Piano Concerto
Beethoven: Symphony No. 5
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Conductor: **HENRY KRIPS, MALCOLM BINNS** piano
£1.75, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

DANIEL BARENBOIM
Great Masterpieces of the Keyboard
LISZT
Années de Pèlerinage Première Année: Suisse
Sonata in B minor
SUNDAY, 17 FEBRUARY at 3.15 p.m.
£1.25, £1.75, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents
FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY at 8 p.m.
LOUGHAN conducts
SHOSTAKOVICH
HALLE ORCHESTRA
JOAQUIN ACUARRO
Programme includes:
Rachmaninov: Overture, Prince Igor
Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No. 1
£1.40, £2.10, £2.80, £3.50, £4.20, £4.90 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Mendelssohn VIOLIN CONCERTO in E minor
GYORGY PAUK violin
Fauré REQUIEM
North McLaren, soprano; Stephen Roberts, baritone
LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS
RICHARD HICKOX conductor
£4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50, £9.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

ALICIA DE LARROCHA
ALBENIZ: Suite IBERIA (complete)
£1.00, £2.00, £3.00, £4.00, £5.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Beethoven: MISSA SOLEMNIS
Annabelle Bernard, Kenneth Rigel, Elizabeth Connell, Marie Rindler
Beethoven's Heiligenstadt Testament
read by **PETER USTINOV**
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA and **CHORUS**
Conductor: **LORIN MAZEL**
£7.50, £8.50, £9.50, £10.50, £11.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
TOMORROW at 7.15 p.m.
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER
and **YITKIN SEOW**
play music by Debussy, Britten and Rachmaninov
Tickets: £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 from Royal Festival Hall Box Office.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

AMADEUS QUARTET
with **MALCOLM BINNS** piano
Quartet in D, K. 499 (Hofmeister): Mozart
Quartet in A, Op. 41 No. 3: Schumann
Piano Quintet in E-flat, Op. 44: Schumann
£1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents
Management: ISS & TILLET
FRIDAY NEXT, 8 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
GEORGE MALCOLM conductor
ANDRAS SCHIFF **JOSE-LUIS GARCIA** **NEIL BLACK**
piano violin oboe
BACH PROGRAMME
For details see South Bank panel

CHRISTIANE EDINGER
GERHARD FUCHT piano
SCHUBERT: Sonata in A, Op. 162
BACH: Solo Sonata in C, BWV 1005
WEBER: Four Pieces, Op. 7
KROKOV: Sonata No. 2 in D, Op. 94
£2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents
TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.
MAURICE HASSON, violin
IAN BROWN, piano
MOZART: Sonata No. 2 in C, K. 296
BACH: Sonata No. 1 in G minor for solo violin, BWV 1001
BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 8, Op. 30 No. 3
FAURÉ: Sonata No. 8, Op. 13
£1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

MOZART
The Complete Works for Solo Flute and Orchestra
performed at original instruments
Concerto in G, K. 313; Concerto in D, K. 314; Andante in C, K. 318
and two Viennese Flute Concertos, K. 313 and K. 314
JOHN SOLUM
Transverse Flute
The Hanoverian Orchestra
Leader: Simon Standage
£3.00, £3.50, £4.00, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents
TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.
YMSO Chamber Orchestra
BACH: Violin Concerto No. 2, BWV 1042
RAVEL: Violin Concerto in G, Op. 26
SCHUBERT: Quartet in A, Op. 29
THE ENGLISH STRING QUARTET
Conductor: **JAMES BLAIR**
£1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

RUDOLF FIRKUSNY
piano
Sonata in E-flat major, Op. 10, No. 5
Fantasy, Op. 14, No. 1
Fantasy-Toccata, Op. 14, No. 2
£1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents
THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
DAVID ATHERTON conductor
ROBERT TEAR tenor
MATIAS: Divertimento for String Orchestra
BRITTEN: Nocturne, Op. 60
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 1 in C
£1.50, £2.50, £3.50, £4.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

PURCELL ROOM
Thursday, 14 February, at 7.30 p.m.
SPNM NEW WORKS AND 20th CENTURY MUSIC
Martin Davies, Joanne Pooley, Andrew Wilson-Dickson, Robert Gierke, David Davidovsky
Park Lane Music Players
Lynda Richardson, soprano; Michael Lankester, conductor
£1.00, £1.40, £1.80 from Box Office (01-928 3191)

Wigmore Hall
Arts Council of Great Britain
Manager: William Lloyd (Mailing List £1 a year)
Tickets: £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00, £3.50, £4.00, £4.50, £5.00, £5.50, £6.00, £6.50, £7.00, £7.50, £8.00, £8.50, £9.00, £9.50, £10.00, £10.50, £11.00, £11.50, £12.00, £12.50, £13.00, £13.50, £14.00, £14.50, £15.00, £15.50, £16.00, £16.50, £17.00, £17.50, £18.00, £18.50, £19.00, £19.50, £20.00, £20.50, £21.00, £21.50, £22.00, £22.50, £23.00, £23.50, £24.00, £24.50, £25.00, £25.50, £26.00, £26.50, £27.00, £27.50, £28.00, £28.50, £29.00, £29.50, £30.00, £30.50, £31.00, £31.50, £32.00, £32.50, £33.00, £33.50, £34.00, £34.50, £35.00, £35.50, £36.00, £36.50, £37.00, £37.50, £38.00, £38.50, £39.00, £39.50, £40.00, £40.50, £41.00, £41.50, £42.00, £42.50, £43.00, £43.50, £44.00, £44.50, £45.00, £45.50, £46.00, £46.50, £47.00, £47.50, £48.00, £48.50, £49.00, £49.50, £50.00, £50.50, £51.00, £51.50, £52.00, £52.50, £53.00, £53.50, £54.00, £54.50, £55.00, £55.50, £56.00, £56.50, £57.00, £57.50, £58.00, £58.50, £59.00, £59.50, £60.00, £60.50, £61.00, £61.50, £62.00, £62.50, £63.00, £63.50, 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Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Who is next for the City ballet?

The New York City Ballet is an institution rather more than 50 years old, according to which way you like to compute its history. A striking, nevertheless, and a proud record of its founding fathers, George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein. Both are in their mid-seventies (Balanchine has just passed his 76th birthday and Kirstein is some three years younger) and it seems well to presume that they will both retire within the next 20 years.

What will happen to New York City Ballet, a company whose essential traditions have rested solely in creativity and the nurturing of a classic style? Who will be the successor to George Balanchine? Always, presuming that is that the company will not one day be set adrift on the Hudson River like a burning Viking ship. Most people nowadays, if only because rumours rather than actualities, would guess some arrangement by which Peter Martins would be director, in either name or function, while Jerome Robbins, who seems to have little taste for administration, would be the principal choreographer.

The present season has not been a particularly creative one. The company seems to be shorting the loss of Mikhail Baryshnikov and the excitement generated by his presence. To company loyalists Baryshnikov has become almost a non-person, but in his brief tenure with the company he certainly raised quite a few sparks. There have been no new creations this season, merely a scanty clutch of revivals, all pulled together on a recent gala programme held to benefit the school of American Ballet. All three of the company's current

choreographers, Balanchine, Robbins and the newcomer Martins, were represented.

It was a curious programme that featured 79 females—admittedly most of them young girls from the school in Robbins's *Circus Polka*—and seven males. This was a gala performance that to be brutally frank was not very good. It was brief, there were just two parts, and the second and more solid part of the evening was a preview of the company's new production of Robbins's very first ballet *Fancy Free*. This had not previously been danced by any company other than the American Ballet Theatre, although able excerpts from the ballet were given by City Ballet last year at a similar gala.

For 36 years *Fancy Free* has been a really ever left Ballet Theatre's territory—it is one of the company's signature pieces and its traditions have been handed to generation after generation of dancer by word of foot. It was perfectly natural that Robbins, for sentimental reasons if nothing else, should want this, his first ballet, in the repertoire of his own company, particularly as it is a masterpiece in the genre of character ballet where City Ballet is somewhat deficient. But nothing yet has quite worked out.

The revival, with its original Oliver Smith setting and Kermit Love costumes, looks band-box new, but the choreography and characterizations are far too hard-edged at the moment, quite lacking the nuances of ballet theatre's customary authority in the work. The three sailors, Jean-Pierre Frohlich, Bart Cook and Peter Martins (the latter dancing the original solo Robbins gave himself, but also combining this with the romantic part of the first danced by the late John Kriza) are oddly lacking in

charms. They seem more like slob than gobs. When, for example they have their little interplay with the young lady with the red hand-bag, the situation takes on an ugly atmosphere, almost as if they are contemplating rape rather than flirtation.

The first part of this gala consisted of bits and pieces, although whether there were more bits than pieces or pieces than bits could be a matter of dispute. It opened with the American premiere of George Balanchine's *Wagnerian Ballet*, originally created for a production of Gounod's *Faust* at the Paris opera in 1975. It seems neither Faust nor Wagner, but rather a bland divertissement dedicated to Balanchine's well-worn concept that ballet is woman. As it clearly has nothing to do with the opera whatsoever—except for filling in the music—it might have been thought suitable for extraction, and certainly it does have some nice things in it.

Some leaping feminine cohorts diagonally traversing the stage remind one, nostalgically, of the last movement of Bourne's *Fantaisie*, for example. The use of a trio, forcefully led by Heather Watts, as a counterpoint to his main ensemble, picked up the form and spirit of the music with Balanchine's customary genius. The young girls, all fresh from the school of American Ballet, the beneficiary of this gala—looked like dew-fresh children out of Marie Laurencin. For the record, they were Susan Gluck, Roma Sosenko and Stacy Cadden.

This part of the programme ended, most appropriately, with Robbins's *Circus Polka*, a work specially made during the Stravinsky festival of 1972. It is just the very young girls of the school frolicking with discipline under the care of their special ringmaster, David Richardson.

For me it was the highlight of the evening—drawing proper and due attention to this school's greatness and significance. Gala performances may come round every year, but hopefully with the public's support and the nation's support, the School of American Ballet, that national treasure of equal importance to the company it spawns, will go on forever. Whoever it is at the helm.

The English-speaking theatre takes an extraordinarily shrunken and blinkered view of world theatre. We know American plays and English plays, and we arrogantly scarcely give a damn for the rest of the world. No one not rich over Brecht, and Anouilh peeked too early. Luckily in New York City we have a tiny, valiant champion of world theatre—Robert Kalin's Chelsea Theatre Centre, one theatre truly in touch with continental Europe, our one window on the non-English-speaking world.

Currently the Chelsea Theatre is giving the American premiere of the French playwright, Yves Jamiaque's *Monsieur Amilcar*. There are two inescapable things that have to be said about it. It is a brilliant comedy. Some of my quicker colleagues will doubtless pick it up as a Pirandellian boulevard comedy. But the interesting thing about the play is simply that it is a contradiction in terms. Or at least terms that we once knew. Amilcar is despairing of the fantasies of life realities, so he determines to purchase the realities of his fantasies. He goes out and buys himself a wife (of 20 years standing), a daughter and a best friend. He has bought himself a family in good working order. Their duties are simple enough. They are paid to act out his fantasies as efficiently. When Amilcar

arrives home from his office, his "family" awaits him. When he goes to bed, they leave. Well, of course, fantasy and reality, Pirandello told us all about that, didn't he? On the large dramatic scale, yes, but Mr. Jamiaque and his Amilcar have some devilishly funny and pertinent afterthoughts—such as the perhaps simplistic notion that if you tell someone they are someone, they become that someone. To a surprisingly large extent this is true.

Now for Mr. Jamiaque's wicked boulevard element. We all know about boulevard comedy in New York, they are the Neil Simon plays that no one of any intellectual perception is allowed to laugh at. Jamiaque is a boulevard playwright. He uses cheap wit as if it were gold-dust, and he explores characters with the superficiality of a laser beam. He is no fool. Mr. Jamiaque knows exactly what he is doing—he can turn people out on the sidewalk convinced they have seen a divine mixture of Ionesco, TV soap-opera, brand unspecified, and a lecture on the psychology of existentialist logic. It is no mean trick.

The adaptation, as the play, by George Conneau and Norman Rose, has the sense of awareness and colloquialism of an original, and Mr. Kalin's direction, aided and abetted by the settings by Michael Sharp, the costumes by Elizabeth P. Palmer and the lighting by Robby Monk, is as easy and as stylish as an aperitif at the Cafe Deux Magots. The acting is suitable throughout and in two instances outstanding. Larry Keith as Amilcar is the very personage of controlled yet doubling desperation, and as his hired and surrogate wife Judith Bancroft plays perfectly the kind of cool woman hot fantasies are based on.

Gardening

Unpredictable spring

For the purposes of these notes I beg leave to designate December, January and February as the winter months. This fits nicely with my conception of spring as covering March, April and May. The behaviour of plants, their growth and time of flowering is more predictable for the winter period than for the spring months. Plant growth is subject to several factors, mean air temperature, soil temperature and day length. Air and soil temperatures in the previous month or months have a very marked effect on growth as was revealed by a series of photographs taken of the same clump of daffodils on February 1, 1914 to February 1, 1942 and the same horse chestnut branch on April 1, 1913 to April 1, 1942 by Mr. John Willis. They were published in his book *Weatherwise* in 1944 and reproduced in L. P. Smith's book *Seasonable Weather* published in 1958. Both are sadly now out of print.

The difference in growth from year to year are quite remarkable. In 1920 for example the chestnut leaves were almost fully open and the flower spike, still in bud, was several inches long. In 1921 the buds had not even begun to swell. In 1940 no growth was visible. With the daffodils, in 1934 the shoots were only one inch or so high, while in 1932 the flower buds were almost ready to open.

Widely fluctuating temperatures from December to March are much more common than in October or November and thus have more effect on growth. Last autumn was very mild, hence the early flowering of many plants.

If you decide deliberately to plant for winter colour, it is always a problem to decide where to put the plants. Should they be around the garden or should we make one or two concentrated plantings near the house where we can see them from the windows? If we do the latter the danger is that there will be large dull areas for the rest of the year.

Personally I favour the latter course because some of the plants are not unattractive later on—*Hamamelis mollis* gives us a second dividend of autumnal foliage and the foliage of *Erica carnea* which is flowering massively just now is not unattractive.

In any case with a little ingenuity one can place some herbaceous plants alongside or behind the winter flowers so that the area is not entirely devoid of colour in the summer. One can plant nepeta, a variety of *Sedum spectabile* or *Corynephorus verticillatus* behind clumps of crocuses or daffodils. They will grow slowly and take over from the bulbs as their foliage dies down. Last weekend we had on our dining table an arrangement of the green *Garrya elliptica* carkins, *Urtica dioica* stylous, *Isomorus alba* and *Hamamelis mollis* heads. On my desk is the first bloom of *Camellia* "Adolphe Audousson" but this is cheating a little because the bush is growing right against the north wall of the greenhouse and here arises another thought. If we wish to have flowers in winter and as early as possible in spring we must find a place for them that is as warm and sheltered as possible.

The rock plant enthusiasts unless they have a cold alpine house have rather a lean time in winter because your true alpine are normally snugly covered with snow and have no

intention, even in snowless winters here of changing their life style. But there are some lovely little plants that flower in winter and early spring—some of the *Cyclamen* species which such as *C. ciliatum* which often flower up to Christmas, or white flowers from December to March and *C. repandum* which if it does not flower in my "winter" does so soon after. But do buy living plants of cyclamen—the dry corns often fail to grow.

Another little plant in bloom just now—earlier than usual—is the Moroccan buttercup, *Ranunculus colandrinoides* with white flowers flushed with pink and grey green leaves. These cyclamen and the ranunculus are available from W. Ingersoll Ltd, Birch Farm Nursery, Gravelly, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4LE.

Soon *Iris histrioides* snowdrops, crocuses and hellebores the first of the daffodils. February Gold will be out and spring will be just around the corner. That is, if it may well happen, the weather does not take a sudden prolonged turn for the worse.

Moss has grown happily on lawns in the mild weather. Deal with it now by applying a moss killer. Do not rake it out—while almost sure to kill some bits and if you rake the moss out you may well spread it. You may have to give a second dose. I prefer to use a mercury based moss killer as it kills the spores as well as the moss and thus gives a longer lasting control. Some people with pets are worried about using these moss killers although I have had cats and dogs for years and had no trouble. But if you want

Jobs for February

Inspect all newly planted trees, shrubs, roses or other plants. If they have been loosened by frosts or gales tread them in again firmly. Check ties.

■ If you intend to buy any roses do so quickly as there is going to be a shortage later on. ■ Inspect everything in store—fruit, vegetables, tubers, gladiolus corms and remove any that are rotting. Watch for signs of mice and if necessary set traps. At one time our local mice seemed to prefer chocolate to cheese, but now we are catching them on good score by using a broad bean as bait.

■ It is worth while spending a few minutes on the small advertisements columns of your local newspaper or asking around because there is quite a lot of manure available these days from riding stables also from mushroom farms.

■ In the greenhouse sow seeds of anemones, lobelia, begonia and annual rudbeckias, also sweet peas to have early flowers. Sow onions and summer cabbage.

■ Sow tomato seeds if you have a propagating case or a window sill where the temperature can be kept at 60 deg F until the seeds germinate and if you can keep the greenhouse at 50 deg F after the seedlings have been pricked out.

PS. Today is Candlemas day. So let us see if the old legend holds good again as it did last year. "If Candlemas day be sunny and bright winter will have another flight; if Candlemas day be cloudy with rain, winter is gone and won't come again."

Roy Hay

The collecting column will appear next week.

Travel

Aging gracefully

A few years ago I was watching a European ski race at Sanicario when I got into conversation with an elderly British lady who was standing beside me on unfashionably long skis. Casually she let drop the fact that she had represented Britain in one of the early winter Olympics. Not only was she still skiing but, as I later found, she was with a whole group of ancient who were having a very happy holiday doing off-piste excursions among the larches and mountain meadows of Sanicario.

It gave me new hope for the future. Now that the unexpected age of 50 is looming up through the mists of time like an "End of Motorway" sign in the fog I find myself giving more thought to ways of skiing gracefully into old age. This has never been a problem for mountain folk. I remember an extremely old ski instructor in Austria who spent a whole day drinking heavily in a storm-bound mountain hut and next day led us unerringly down a snow-covered glacier through a blinding snow like to think it was not just luck that got us home. City folk, however, still think of skiing as a sport for young people, who spend their nights dancing and their days swooping athletically down crowded tracks.

This is a misconception. I am convinced that more and more people are going to spend their retirement pay on the ski slopes, inflation permitting (or, more probably, not permitting). The Ski Club, however, tells me they have members skiing well into their eighties, and there is a rising demand for their holiday packages with a minimum age of 50. They say that the main danger for old people on ski holidays comes from walking down for village services. This is far more risky and difficult than skiing which has become markedly easier

with the new breed of short skis and the trend towards grooming pistes into wide boulevards. Indeed I know a man of respectable age who says that short skis have added at least 10 years to his skiing life. Moreover there are now more and more people around who have learned a relatively effortless style in their youth, and this is one of the keys to cruising enjoyably towards a late grave. Also, there are simply more people moving into the upper age groups as the structure of the population changes. Geriatric power is the wave of the future.

This means that the travel trade is going to have new fields to conquer. It is probably a significant sign of the times that Supertravel has lifted the age limit which is otherwise 45, on three of their larger chalets in Val d'Isere, Courchevel and Cervinia. Apart from the fact that Mr. Lewthwaite one of the founding directors, has reached the advanced age of 39 and presumably does not want to be excluded from his own parties, they had begun to notice that agents from the counter-culture of the over 45s had begun infiltrating the stockades of youth.

I noticed this myself last year when I spent a short time as guest of a Supertravel chalet in Meribel. Swinging youth was there, but I was not the only undercover operative of the geriatric revolution. One man from another chalet said he had simply tied about his age on the booking form. An elderly granny had slipped along with her married son. And I think I spotted one or two other members of the fabric of youth culture has clearly begun.

I hasten to add, for the sake of Supertravel's image, that there were exceptions. Mr Lewthwaite says the average



age of their 12,000 or so winter clients is around 32. Moreover the visit confirmed my belief that chalet parties are the best value for money if one wants ready-made company and is cooking dinner. They are also the advantage of offering a kind of family atmosphere in which one can wander into the kitchen, fix oneself a drink or a coffee. The food was good, the girls nice, and the chalet comfortable, with a welcoming log fire in the afternoon.

Of course you have to take the company as you find it unless you bring your own good if you are alone you will probably have to share a room, but skiing is a relaxing business, and even a few agents from the counter-culture of age can be accepted as adding threads to the rich fabric of life. In any

case they may now head for the larger chalets where they can throw off their cover and book under their real ages.

The other thing about skiing into middle or old age is to get the right mental attitude. Some people still cling grimly to the idea that one must spend every daylight moment on skis. Given the price of ski lifts this is understandable, but there is just as much enjoyment to be had from looking at the trip not as a ski holiday but as a winter holiday, a way of getting away from Britain in January.

Personally I see less and less point in slithering down icy slopes in heavy mist or snow merely for the sake of having done it. Skiing is fun when the snow is good and you can see where you are going. Other wise there is more to be had

from a good book, a walk or a visit to the next town. Given that approach, the grave is probably the limit to the age to which one can carry on. So maybe someone will start chalet parties with a minimum age limit. Staffed by "cheer granites" perhaps?

Postscript: Last month I briefly sampled Supertravel's age-limit chalet in Courchevel and found a very friendly and harmonious mixture of ages from brightest youth to a mellow group which earned high respect by setting off each morning for the most difficult runs it could find. Truly skiing does something to people. A larger chalet—in this case a former hotel—necessarily creates a larger and looser group with a wider choice of company.

As for Courchevel, it is quite simply one of the best resorts in the world, a paradise of perfectly groomed pistes and open slopes intelligently linked and revealing across the famous Three Valleys to form a gigantic area with runs of all types and standards. It has only two defects. Its icy, car-ridden streets are unnecessarily dangerous, and the maps issued to skiers are nothing short of scandalous—inadequate, out of date, wrong in detail, and a cause of constant grumbles. That such an easily corrected detail is allowed to flaw perfection is inexplicable. In other respects Courchevel pampers its visitors with some of the best organized, comfortable and well-fed skiing imaginable.

Richard Davy

Chess

Optimism for the Olympiad

The finals of the European Team Championship which ended at Skara in Sweden last week were the seventh of a series which I find the choicest and most fascinating of all team chess ships. Though not perhaps so important as the World Team Championship which has attained greater recognition by mere weight of numbers, it excels the Olympiad in quality if not in quantity and is a constant reminder that chess as we know it is the modern form of the game that is as opposed to the ancient form known as Chaturanga which is Asiatic in origin, first started in Europe.

The Olympiad consists of a vast hodge-podge of teams of all sorts of strength and weakness, ranging in quality from fine to good, to average to medium to poor and to half-baked. But an intense sifting process has already taken place with the European team final and the result is a wonderful collection of exciting and fine games. I well remember how this first of the series which was held at Vienna and Baden-Baden in 1957 and where I was only four teams then, they played a double-round tournament so that one had the pleasure of seeing great players in action against each other twice over so to speak.

The USSR was an overwhelming winner then and has won it ever since. The event assumed its present form of eight teams at Kapfenberg in Austria in 1970 and once again, as chief

arbiter, I was enthralled by the magnificent quality of the chess played. England had not yet taken part in this event, but we played when the finals were held in Bath in 1973. The first time we then were USSR 33 and Yugoslavia 34 and Hungary 33 and we came equal 5th and 6th with West Germany with 24 points. We fared worse at Moscow in 1977 where we were bottom with 21 points, the first three teams being USSR 41, Hungary 31 and Yugoslavia 30.

When it came to preparing our team for Skara we were fully conscious that our team was the best we had ever sent to the finals and that it had excellent chances of doing well. The many years of on young players had produced a young team containing four grandmasters and two players on the verge of becoming grandmasters. Moreover, and this was very important in its bearing on the morale of our players, as a team was no longer going to be sort of band of poor wretches who would watch with envy the perquisites and more fortunate results of the firm of Duncan Lawrie which acted as fairy godmother to the tune of some £3,000.

The result of all this was at once apparent. In the very first round we met the Soviet team and scored 4-4 against them. Tony Miles set the tempo and the degree of amazement for the leading boards by beating the

world champion Karpov in no uncertain fashion and Nunn too had a resounding victory over Polugaevsky.

In the next round a strange and somewhat vexing problem manifested itself. While the English top boards continued to perform wonders the lower boards were correspondingly dismal failures. So much so that though on the first four boards against Bulgaria England scored 3-1, on the lower boards Bulgaria did even better and emerged with a 4-3 victory.

This pattern repeated itself till the round when the English lower boards at last made good and England beat Yugoslavia by 6-2. In the penultimate round they beat Sweden by 4-3 and this meant they were second to the Soviet team with a match in prospect in the last round against their nearest rivals Hungary.

In the last round the four top English boards scored only 11-21 against Hungary and this meant that, with the USSR an easy first with 36 points, Hungary came second with 29 and England third with 24. There followed Yugoslavia 28, Bulgaria 27, Czechoslovakia 26, Israel 25 and Sweden 23. The evenness of the struggle, with the exception of the USSR, was shown by the fact that Hungary, England, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria were each consecutively half a point below the other.

How notable the achievement of the top English players was appears from the consideration that, had this been an Olympiad

and play confined to four boards, England would have scored as follows: v USSR 3-1 v Bulgaria 3-1, v Czechoslovakia 2-2, v Israel 3-1, v Yugoslavia 3-1, v Sweden 2-1 and v Hungary 1-2. Undoubtedly had this been an Olympiad, England would have come first and this augurs well for our prospects in the Olympiad later this year.

England won three best score prizes: on the first board where Tony Miles scored 4/7, on the third board where Nunn did even better with 5/7 and on the fifth board where Keene shared the prize with the Israeli grandmaster Kradman with 4/7. Michael Stean had the fine score of 4/7 on second board and Speelman and Miles both had the more than satisfactory score of 3/4 on boards 4 and 7, respectively. The scores on the lower boards were correspondingly dismal and are best left in decent obscurity. But all the same it was a notable performance in the first time in the history of the event when a European country figured among the medals.

No one has made such a notable advance in big international chess as John Nunn and here is how he beat the formidable Soviet grandmaster Polugaevsky in Round 1. White, Polugaevsky. Black, Nunn. Modern Benoni.

All up to here as in the game Korchnoi-Mecking, August 1974, which continued 12... P-KN4; 13. B-N2, P-N5; 14. KR-K1, N-R4; 15. N-K1, N-B5; 16. B-N5, R-B1; 17. N-K3, Q-N4; 18. N-B5, R-P3; 19. P-B3, R-K4; 20. BxN, BxR with equality.

13 B-N2 P-B3 15 DR-K1 14 B-N2 B-O2 16 DR-K1 15... Q-R5; 16. N-K3.

15... Q-R5 16 P-B4

16... N-N5 17 N-B3

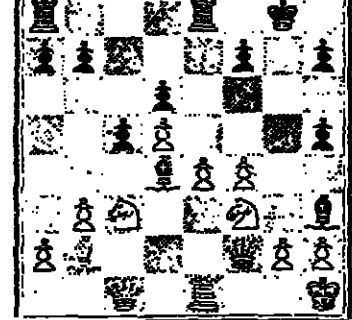
Or 17. P-KR3, B-Q5 ch: 18. K-R1, N-B7 ch; 19. K-R2, BxP; 20. N-B3, QxP ch and Black wins.

17... Q-Q5 ch 19 R-N3 Q-R 18 K-R1 N-B7 ch 20 Q-B1

Exchange of Queens would have averted the enemy surprise Bishop move, but even so after 20. QxQ, BxQ; 21. R-K2, B-Q5; 22. N-B3, P-N1; 23. N-Q1, B-N5; 24. R-K1, BxN; 25. R-B3, RxP; Black has an easy win.

20... B-R6

Position after 20... B-R6



21 R-N1

Threatening to play P-B dis ch, hence Black's next move.

22 N-B3 P-N 23 P-B5

Or 23. N-Q1, BxP ch: 24. RxB, Q-B8 ch; 25. R-N1, Q-B6 ch; 26. R-N2, BxP; 27. Q-Q2, QR-K1; and White is helpless against the double threat of R-K8 ch and R-K7.

23... P-N 25 P-B5 K-K1 24 Q-P R-P 26 Q-Q3

And not 26. Q-R8 ch, K-Q2; 27. QxP, Q-B6 ch; 28. R-N2, R-K8 mate.

27... R-K8 28 P-B8 Q-Q2 29 R-N3 R-B1 30 Q-P Q-O7 ch 31 K-N2 R-B1 31 K-N3 QxP

Preferable to 31... QxR; 32. QxP ch, K-Q1; 33. Q-K7 mate.

32 K-R4 K-K1

White resigns.

Harry Golombek

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Fred Emery on how close Mrs Thatcher came to losing a minister Cabinet tremors over the cuts

How near was a resignation? We may never know unless someone in Mrs Thatcher's team is keeping a diary.

The political resignation that would have caused a sensation this week did not happen. No, it is not Mr James Callaghan. The Leader of the Opposition has been rather testy about the growing chorus urging him to stay no longer on the manner of his going, but he will not retire before November if he can help it. In his case it was a pity BBC strikers prevented transmission of his interview recorded with Mr Robin Day, for Mr Callaghan seemed intent on showing that he was still in charge.

Had Mr Callaghan gone, there would have been no sensation, only fascination over the succession and whether Mr Denis Healey would be deprived of his inheritance. My reference is to the seismic shock of a ministerial resignation from Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet.

Consider: a government beset by a storm, having to become more provocative towards trades unions as a result of Lord Denning and his colleagues; a government wrestling with inflation and squeezing still more out of public expenditure; a government challenging EEC partners and even the Russians. A resignation would have convulsed the scene and propelled the Prime Minister to a crisis of credibility which she has so scrupulously preserved.

How near was such a resignation? It is a bit like asking how near we were to losing Harrisburg in last year's nuclear accident. We may never know, unless, like Mrs

Castle, someone in Mrs Thatcher's team is keeping a diary. But in the view of several senior politicians the "if-then" force—that I shall have to go Richer scale was certainly recording tremors last week.

The great "them and us" fight over money between department and Treasury ministers might have had five or six ministers muttering threats, according to one view; for another, the number was two, perhaps only one.

Now, the great strain of cutting spending back still further is bound to produce ructions and conflicts of heart and head and loyalties. There is no reason why Conservatives should be any different from Labour in this; indeed it can be said that this Cabinet contains more men of principle than the last the strain is heavier.

But perspective requires a clear distinction be made between rehearsing resignation threats to the mirror or to one's colleagues—and actually going in to the Prime Minister and uttering. There is no evidence that last week it actually had to come to that. But from the Cabinet's inability to conclude its settlement over the surrender to meet the target of a further £1,000m off next year's spending (leaving aside our receding "money back" from the EEC) it can be seen that some dour argument continues.

Those engaged in the battle want it clear that there is no

real divergence over objective.

Restoration of the economy is the agreed priority, so, too, is a steadfast military posture, even by the departments who spend most. But big spenders are obviously having to cut most, with one exception, defence.

Again, it is said by ministers, everyone understands that the Chancellor and his immediate colleague, Mr John Biffen, have the duty to cry making sure that no one escapes the cut, even if only by paring knife. In the present exercise when Mrs Thatcher publicly stated, that no sacred cows would be respected, her head if not her heart has to be with the Treasury men, especially when other besieged ministers are saying that defence increases simply cannot be afforded. In the nuclear age cannot a bridge of tanks wait another year?

Under Labour, defence cuts

became a way of life—as much, one suspects, for Treasury officials as for politicians, and no one made more of it than the Conservatives. And there's the rub. How could the Conservatives, the party of the flag and champion of the Services, contemplate defence spending cuts? Well, the short answer is that they did, at least in terms of not increasing spending as they had promised.

This was not an unattractive thing to do. Indeed Labour MPs would have been bound to applaud rather than jeer. But it must have seemed heresy when set against the dogma and commitments of faith. "Labour have cut down our forces," weakened our defences and reduced our contribution to Nato... it is already obvious that significant increases will be necessary," stated the 1979 Conservative manifesto, leaving the level to be decided in government. Once installed they committed themselves to the

three per cent real increase next year over this year's defence spending, as well as getting and keeping "full comparability" for service pay.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union in Afghanistan seemed to confirm the Iron Lady's intention over the Kremlin's ill intentions. This helped prepare public acceptance not only of immediate increases but of the costly and contested replacement of the British nuclear deterrent which will be decided this spring. Furthermore, we were calling our principal EEC allies "wet".

In such an atmosphere Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, might have been fancied a likely beneficiary, like his Pentagon colleague, of a big boost to his budget; not a bit. Mr Pym's plan was for gradual year-by-year improvement commensurate with the maximum the economy could stand. But he was faced with an increasingly desperate rearguard action to hold on to what he had promised.

How could his Defence white paper, to appear at the end of this month ahead of the Expenditure white paper, be presented plausibly? As one backbench Tory sprang it on Mrs Thatcher during last Monday's debate, when she was talking about doing "whatever is necessary to counter Soviet policies", would this not be the worst possible moment for Britain to make "any unilateral cuts in defence spending"?

The Prime Minister, in reiterating the Government's basic pledge of 3 per cent, was thought by other Tories to have planted the question in order to help Mr Pym in his battle with the Chancellor. But for her, that is too Machiavellian.

Mrs Thatcher was reputed at that stage to be backing Sir Geoffrey. Other Cabinet colleagues did not rate highly Mr Pym's chances of escaping the cuts unscathed.

But Mr Pym, MC, who in some respects is a bit of a lone wolf, in others a political operator, is the last man who could be asked to argue a case he would not accept. The commitments to the Government made were for him paramount, for national security, for morale and for political credibility. He had his sticking point.

And, although on Thursday afternoon some Commons observers were startled at seeing him sitting for a good while longer than seemed necessary in the row behind the Front Bench, the happy end of this chapter is that he has won. How and when he carried it off is not yet clear. But Mrs Thatcher agrees that the defence commitments, pay and longer than seemed necessary in the row behind the Front Bench, the happy end of this chapter is that he has won.

This insight into the strains of this so far secretive Government in no way suggests a Cabinet in disarray. But is it growing restive under pressure? Or is it, as ministers contend, good government reached through tough arguments.

What South Africa must do to play

Integrated clubs and integrated sport constitute far less than one per cent of sport activities

What changes in South African sport would justify its re-admission to world competition after more than a decade of controversy, protest and isolation? The simple answer is: the eradication of sport apartheid. But as the Sports Council's fact-finding mission, now out in South Africa, is doubtless realizing, a much more precise formulation is needed of the changes to be made.

For whilst the recent changes in the country's sport have been significant, by South African standards, by world standards they have been actually quite small. The sports system has been given a facelift, with racial restrictions being relaxed in certain limited respects and usually during national or prestige events likely to attract international attention. But at club level where change must occur if it is to have any meaning for most sportsmen and women—racism still rules. As a government MP said in South Africa's House of Assembly on May 21 last year: "Integrated clubs and integrated sport constitutes far less than one per cent of total sport activities in South Africa".

Moreover, a string of apartheid laws and regulations on the multi-racial sport which the Government has reached by special permits which are strictly controlled.

South Africa should be required, therefore, to remove sport apartheid by meeting eight major conditions. By doing that it would be on the same footing as other countries with repressive regimes—such as the Soviet Union and Chile—but whose sports systems do not practice their country's oppressive or discriminatory policies. As present South Africa uniquely singles herself out for protest in the sports arena, on sporting grounds.

The first condition is that both the South African Government and its internationally recognized South African sports organizations should make public commitments to a fully integrated, truly non-racial sports system. So far they have hidden behind terms like "multi-racial" and "non-racial" sport, refusing to declare a willingness to abolish apartheid from sport.

Secondly an Act of Parliament should be instituted specifically exempting all aspects of sport from the apartheid laws and regulations restricting them. At present, the 1945 Urban Areas Act controls black sports facilities and restricts their use by permit. The 1950 Group Areas Act segregates the population into racial areas and women included—and in 1972 a proclamation was issued by the Sports Minister enabling multi-racial matches to be banned on private grounds as well. The Reservation of Separate Amenities Act 1953 and the Liquor Act 1928 prevent the integration of grandstands, seating, toilets and dancing. Many other laws interfere with sport—such as the pass laws which prevent African sportsmen or women from travelling freely to "away" matches on tour.

Third, part of that new sports act should expressly forbid the constitution of any sports club or sporting association from constituting racially exclusive rules or conditions of membership.

Fourth, all players, spectators, trainers and officials should have the same rights of access to all sports clubs and grounds facilities.

Fifth, the organizations controlling sport should be entirely integrated, abolishing the present "tri-partite" structure which comprises whites-only bodies, small blacks-only bodies and non-racial bodies. The

dominant white bodies have enjoyed exclusive international links, but have now begun to co-opt (albeit upon a subsidiary basis) those black bodies which confine membership to Africans or Asians or Coloureds and do not allow mixing between these different black ethnic groups. However, the third group, the non-racial sports bodies—which draw members from all the black racial groups and a small, though growing, number of whites—do not represent the majority of blacks in each sport. It is necessary as a result to have a single, non-racial and democratic organization governing each sport.

Seventh, the South African Government should implement a sports development programme to raise the level of black sports facilities and opportunities, with each citizen enjoying an equal proportion of state funds devoted to sport.

Eighth, all official restrictions on and harassment of non-racial sports officials should be abolished. For whilst the white controlled sports system has recently been decorated with a few compliant blacks, the non-racial groups who have stuck to their guns have been intimidated by security services or prosecuted.

Some of their leading officials have been served with banning orders and have been denied passports to present their case abroad. Even the former white Springbok triallist, "Cheeky" Watson, who in 1977 resigned from the white rugby body and joined the non-racial South African Rugby Union, has been arrested several times, solely for the "crime" of entering a black township to play for his team.

These eight conditions, it should be noted, do not require the abolition of apartheid in its broader political, economic or social sense, although they will undoubtedly encourage that. Instead, they are confined to sport and implemented in their entirety could open the way for South Africa's re-admission to world sport. That would not imply any lessening of opposition to apartheid as a whole, merely an acknowledgement that sport had been exempted from it.

Nothing less than the full implementation of these conditions would be acceptable however. For the past decade has shown that only an uncompromising stance produces results. As has now been demonstrated by the heart transplant surgeon, Professor Christian Barnard and, more recently, by South Africa's rugby supreme, Dr Danie Craven, isolation has worked: the protest campaigns did more than anything else to force change. In the past both men were fierce critics of these campaigns. Thus, South Africa must remain in isolation until it legislates to remove apartheid from sport. Venues such as the British Lions rugby tour serve only to reverse the tide of change created by the boycotts: unless whites have an incentive to accelerate changes beyond the present cosmetic level the record shows they will not do so.

Peter Hain

Solution to The Times Crossword, No 1, February 1, 1980.

ACROSS—1, Smeag; 4, Penserose; 10, Mayo; 11, Nomad; 13, Respected; 15, Sew; 17, Dean; 18, Diehard; 21, Suspect; 23, Relief; 25, Soar; 26, Skid; 27, Tureens; 30, Con; 33, Immense; 35, Alto; 38, Umbo; 39, Turle; 41, Rasing; 43, Earldom; 45, Turle; 46, See; 48, Diffident; 50, Egret; 51, Enid; 52, Selenites; 53, Total.

DOWN—2, Maori; 3, Abashed; 4, Par; 5, Eyed; 6, Noser; 7, Evensong; 8, Ostler; 9, Addity; 12, Deal; 14, Pause; 16, Wit; 18, Desk; 19, Pen; 20, Dopey; 22, Box; 24, Front; 28, Enave; 29, Ambition; 31, Sled; 32, Doom; 33, In; 34, Mound; 35, Eras; 36, Allegro; 37, Brides; 38, Useful; 40, Tree; 42, Grass; 44, Opera; 46, Anne; 49, Tis.

The solution to the clue "To be, or not to be, that is the— (not eight letters but 11)" was apophysis. This word means the breaking off of a sentence.

Andrew Rissik

Can Russian peasants teach us about worship?

As a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and before that of the Church Assembly, I voted for all the liturgical experiments then contemplated. Experiments had to be made in the West, but frequent visits to eastern Europe put a question mark against many things that I had voted for.

We were told with some confidence that old fashioned language in the Bible and the Prayer Book were unintelligible to many, or alternatively that though people could understand it when they tried, they "rusted off" when they heard the cadences of Cranmer and the Authorized Version. But when I went to Russia I found fervent and large congregations, always including many simple men and women, who listened with intense devotion to very long services which were not easily understood of the people. It was as if the Book of Common Prayer had been composed by Chaucer instead of Cranmer and the Bible translated by the author of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.

Knowing modern Russian but never having learnt any of the older forms of Slavonic, I could not understand much at first. But, like a Russian peasant I learnt to stand through a service of two or three hours, and gradually I heard and saw began to come into focus. At the twentieth hearing I would suddenly understand one of the sentences for St John the Baptist's day.

Coming back to Britain I seldom felt the same sense of ship that I encountered so often in Russia. But I gave two cheers for Series Two and one cheer for Series Three. We did not seem to have arrived anywhere in particular but we were on the way. There are some striking beauties in the new forms of service, as well as much that is insipid. I soon found that one can pray in the new ways, but for me, as for many others, the older forms remained "the C major of this life".

Twenty years ago we in the West had to experiment with worship, we needed new translations of the Bible and new church structures for the new age. Now we have had experiments in all these fields and what is the result? Some people have been helped and at particular places small advances have been made with groups that were previously church resistant. But by and large the churches are emptier than before.

But when I go back to eastern Europe I find that, without doing any of the things that I voted for when I was a member of the Synod, the churches have made notable advances.

When the New English Bible came out, the Russian congrega-

By and large the churches are emptier than before

tions, which are those I know best, were fervent but uneducated. Nowadays the predominant element in these same congregations is increasingly the younger intelligentsia, precisely the element that under Tsarism and for the first 40 years of the Revolution was most resistant to Christianity.

The Pope's visit to Poland has shown how deep religious feeling is in that country. And in varying degrees the same is true of other countries in Communist eastern Europe. In particular it is no longer possible to understand the Soviet Union without taking account of the religious dimension.

The churches of eastern Europe are not conservative in their forms of worship, yet their hold on both simple and learned is great, and is increasing year by year. At the same time religious belief and practice in the West makes little progress, if it is at all, and gradually I heard and saw began to come into focus. At the twentieth hearing I would suddenly understand one of the sentences for St John the Baptist's day.

Personally I conclude that faith is the supreme factor in the attraction of the Gospel. Where faith has been tried in the faith as in the communist countries of eastern Europe, it is strong and draws to itself tens of millions. Where it is weak, as so often in the West, the attraction is far less. The language of worship and the structure of church life are secondary. Faith can work through any language and any structure but a deeper faith will generally prefer a worship that is strongly rooted in tradition.

I do not want to stop any of the experiments now being made in my own church or any other church. And I do not want to go back to the 1662 Prayer Book. But I believe that a worship that is more catholic and more traditional than most of what we are now trying out. In the end perhaps it is Series One that will suit us best.

John Lawrence

James Bond: from action man to a slapstick puppet hero

James Bond is the most glittering and costly of the cinema's heroes. suave and indomitable, he has strode through some 11 films, made a fortune for their makers and survived triumphantly through two decades. As we enter the 80s there are two Bond movies in the pipeline.

United Artists promise us *For Your Eyes Only*, almost certainly another glittering mechanized carnival along the lines of the recent *Moonraker* and almost certainly starring affable Mr. Roger Moore. Meanwhile, Sean Connery, the original Bond and the best, wants to leap back into harness. His projected movie *Warhead*, which stars himself as 007 in a script co-written with Len Deighton, is apparently going into production in March. All of which is interesting because the Roger Moore *Moonraker* was the worst of the series, and the current retrospective at the NFI has not only given Bond some sort of official recognition but has also indicated that there's a nostalgic yearning after Connery's lethal '60s prototype.

Bond is bigger than ever now, but his status has shifted a bit. In the 60s it was stylish pop; at present it's costly rubbish. The movie-makers have turned the capricious 007 into an emasculated marionette, a dummy with moveable parts who merely acts as the central detonator for a slapstick world of combustible hardware and jaded mechanical sepias. Connery galvanised the rather dull scripts he was given into insolent life, made the expensive world of the chic commercial backdrop for virile heroics and blew to shreds the idea that Bond was the "cardboard boob" of Fleming's novels.

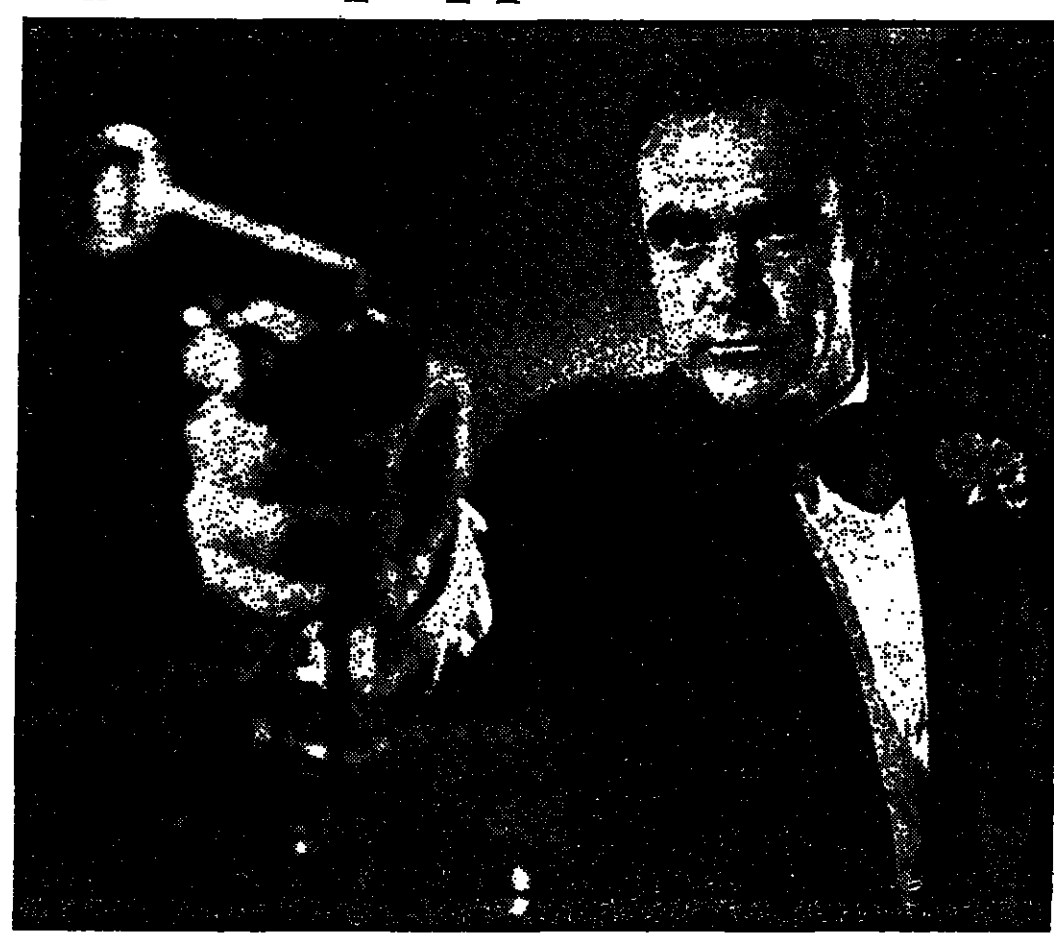
Moore has worked the trick backwards: his Bond is the prop for a series of costly advertisements for anything from Seiko watches to the construction kit sets that are wheeled out with such predictable facility.

The original Connery-Bond was essentially a 60s hero: arrogant, classless, liberated, promiscuous, flippant and intensely conspicuous. He wasn't part of the cult of rebellion or youth or permissiveness but the classless style, anarchic violence and casual promiscuity of the characterization marked the tone of a clubland hero who was a clubbable and who flouted clubland rules. It was a left and impertinent updating of the traditional hero, a workable mode for an anti-traditional age. Right from the aggressive, punchy image of the lithe silhouette who turns and fires at the audience to the casually sexy love-at-first-sight, Bond was a celebration of the 60s zest for consumer orientated hedonism and go-getting action.

There is a recognizable hedonism scene in the 60s; by the time the 70s got underway it had vanished. British social life had fragmented and the crystallizing image of Swinging London had gone forever. There was a sense, too, that British cinema were no longer those of the world. More interesting and important things were happening across the Atlantic.

This idea of Britain as a "shabby little island delighted with itself" (Hare) wasn't conducive to the bogus imperialism from which the Bond heroes had sprung. Consequently, the Bond character became superciliously English and the movies tried to find themselves American playlands. The far west of *Diamonds Are Forever* was followed by the American spin in *Live And Let Die*, with such hot United States concerns as black power and narcotics being given a kind of camp English overkill. *The Man With The Golden Gun* was Bond firing with the problem of solar energy. *The Spy Who Loved Me* got very cuddly about détente and *Moonraker* was an Airfix kit version of the NASA space shuttle scene.

The 70s were an ugly and abrasive decade substituting crudity for panache. At best their tone of sour compassion has produced some fine and intelligent movies; the emergence of talents like Coppola and Scorsese have been compensations for the vicarious brutality of movies like *Dirty Harry* and its fascist obsession



Sean Connery as Bond in "Diamonds are Forever"—a lethal prototype.

with urban slaughter. The 70s ditched the half-baked optimism of the 60s but hadn't anything to replace it with, and the decade has felt numb and empty and raw. A *Clockwork Orange*, *Taxi Driver*, and the two parts of *The Godfather* have epitomised this sense of a negative ideology. Bond has had problems because, in the 60s, killing people was a sexy joke. In the 70s we became aware of the nastiness underneath this comic pornography. Manson proved just how unfunny the idea of killing people for kicks really was, and it wasn't long before *Dirty Harry* and *Taxi Driver* took this voyeuristic neurosis and turned it into a reactionary virtue. Bond was too light in tone, too much of a desk-top toy, to take this vindictive commitment.

The moment Roger Moore stepped into the graceful *Live And Let Die* Bond became flabby and harmless, a square guffaw at the expense of a decade now past. With his twee cigars, smart sporting blazers and cosy features Moore threw out Connery's insolent cool and replaced it with an awful pink geniality.

The 70s saw that the only way to deal with Bond was to send him up. When Connery returned to the role after George Lazenby's strait-laced *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, he came back in a wittily written piece of black camp that sent his own

60s superstar legend sky high. *Diamonds Are Forever* may have been camp but at least it had a hero; Connery's adroit tribute to the ingenious heroics of the early 60s. Moore's Bond isn't a hero because he isn't a star. He's a perky asteroid whose proper place is the bland knockabout of the multi-episode TV action series.

In the 70s Bond reached a camp impasse: no heroes, no villains, no plot, no danger, no excitement. That was left was a form of demented mechanic slapstick rendered impotent by its own lack of purpose and direction. The late 70s saw the revival of these in the city with optimism. *Star Wars*, *The Deer Hunter* and *Superman* have all, in their different ways, returned to the big budget movie, the old-fashioned hero who affirms traditional values in a new age and a new idiom.

The astute move of the Bond team at the start of the 80s was to get Connery back to guy his own ironic heroism. The astute move they could make now would be to abandon Roger Moore's aging tele star and call in a red blooded young sophisticate who could reinstate the deadly style of the early movies and revamp their heroic ingenueness. It is time for the hero to reclaim his role as the propulsive centre of his own lethal legend.

Andrew Rissik

SPORTS DIARY

Dad's show goes on at Monterey

The show goes on. In 1937 Bing Crosby because of his love of golf and acquaintance with its professionals on the one hand, and his involvement in the world of entertainment on the other, gathered a few friends from both worlds together and ran a competition. After play the company stayed on for a barbecue evening. From such small beginnings the Crosby pro-am grew into something so big that more than £1m has gone to charities. When the world's most famous crooner died in 1977 the tournament must surely have continued under its own impetus over had the founder not cared. But he cared and it has been left to

his younger son, Nathaniel, who inherited his love for the game, to maintain the tradition.

Nathaniel is 19, a scratch golfer and a student at Miami University where he has already begun winning local tournaments. In acting as host at the head of the organizing committee for the event which has had its headquarters at Pebble Beach since the war, he shows all the ease of manner in mixing with dukes and dustmen that distinguished his father. The impact of his youthful person ality on the event is clear cut already, but as he says—"It will always be dad's show".

The weather can be nightmarish. In 1952, for example, Cary Middlecott and Ed Crowley, who were twice in the winner's circle during that decade, decided there was only one way to keep the ball on the pin on the famous 17th tee at Cypress, and that was by build-

ing up the golf bags into a stockade against the gale.

But it is a dream of a place for golfers. It is a little late in my career to start enthusing about the beauty of the Monterey peninsula. The trees are still weirdly gnarled, the seaweed smells as pungent as ever it did, the Pacific breakers still proudly toss their white manes. It has all been said before and perhaps the highest compliment that could be paid it now is to add that the description I had previously read of it have not proved exaggerated.

A wider view of touring In talking to an American professional golfer who has not yet reached the peak of his career one might expect to have to prepare the ground a little before starting a conversation

about one of the old Big Three of British golf, J. H. Taylor, who won his last Open championship in 1913. But not if the professional in question is Ben Crenshaw. This remarkable personality, who enjoys the dubious distinction of being champion runner-up on four major events—the British and US Opens, the Masters and the American Professional Championship, which constitutes the Grand Slam, has an interest in the history of the game which is not simply a raising of the hat to tradition. It is real and deep.

There was not much I could tell him. He is already booked in for this year's Open at Muirfield, and he prompted my memory in naming the first winner of the championship on that course, the amateur Harold Hilton. He even knew about the auction last autumn of an original print of J. H.

Taylor by "Spy" that fetched some hundreds of pounds.

If all this makes him sound a dilettante of the professional tour, nothing could be less true. With his growing interest in the roots of the game and in the details of courses which is naturally linked with that he is simply taking a wide view of a career which is his life. He loves the people and places on tour, even though an indifferent course will nearly always draw the worst out of him.

British invasion

The Californian golf tour, though it has not lacked an occasional British writer has never seen such a heavy concentration of them as attended the last big tennis tournament in New York. An American tennis writer tells me the

native were heavily outnumbered there by the invading force. Even so, this most distant corner of America does not lack British infiltration at this time of year. San Diego has recently become twinned with Edinburgh and the Lord Provost of the Scottish capital chose a good time to visit "the twin" last week, for it coincided not only with the professional golf tournament but with the Burns night dinner given by the strong community of these in the city with Scottish ancestry. Whether the San Diegans banded the haggis in the approved manner may be open to question, but there can be no doubt of their warm reception of Lord and Lady Borthwick, their distinguished guests of honour.

Another Scot was in San Diego on rather different grounds. Mr Ronnie Ross, the lord of a Paisley pub, had been invited to play in the Andy Williams pro-am. Mr Rossi may not be a show-biz personality in his own right, but he has a rarer quality, a striking resemblance to the television character Kojak, including a shaven head. It is perhaps just as well that he did not come on to the Crosby pro-am because the real Kojak, Telly Savalas, was taking part.

Another Briton enjoying the Californian temperature, but working as Professor Ronald Maudsley who for many years was in charge of university golf at Oxford. He has his year neatly divided up now between the winter, New York in the autumn, and a return to his old university in the summer. Over the border in Nevada there has been an opportunity for another Briton to acquire a mild tan. Golf has now turned up on the form of the John Jacobs golf school. In between visits to the

pool side, which in that city can mean either swimming or gambling, tourists can have the benefit of his celebrated teaching system which in simple words amounts to learning what they are doing wrong by understanding the behaviour of the ball you have just hit.

An article appeared recently in a Los Angeles paper written in a light vein, looking ahead to the possibility that if the fuel situation gets worse and costs rise, there might in the winter months be a mass emigration from the frozen North-east to the Californian resorts. All that would be left behind, the ghost cities of Reno and Chicago would be caretakers, a few civil servants, and a skeleton police force, until the migrants returned in the spring.

Peter Ryde



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GOOD LAW? BAD JUSTICE

Yet again the Law Lords have resisted the temptation to equitable but creative interpretation of law dangled before them by Lord Denning. How far they have rejected his arguments we shall not know until the judgments are published. When they come they will certainly be read with interest. The speed and unanimity of their decision, and Lord Diplock's comment that there were no significant differences between this case and that of *McShane*, suggest that the full judgments on the *McShane* case, also unanimous, showed significant disagreement on important matters of law and it is unlikely that the new judgments will fully clear up the uncertainties that remain in the law on secondary industrial action. Only legislation, now promised by the Government, can do that. The clear practical unfairness of yesterday's decision, however well-based on the statute, makes legislation imperative in any case. Its immediate result is that the private steelmen are to be called out again, in order to put pressure on the Government.

A VOLUNTARY REGISTER WOULD BE BETTER

In the House of Commons yesterday Mr Hugh Fraser proposed the compulsory registration of all those who might be eligible for military or some form of national service at a time of crisis. This is a constructive idea, but we do not think it is necessarily the right one. That there is a case for improving the country's preparedness is unquestionable, although paradoxically there are those who will question it. Not for the first time in its history Britain is strangely unready to cope with the unforeseen. Our armed forces are well-motivated, well-trained and reasonably well-equipped. But they remain too small. Their reserves would be needed in wartime simply to replace the ranks to battlefield strength after which there would be no rapid means of reinforcement. There is simply no provision for it.

A FIRM, PERHAPS LEFTISH, QUEEN TO BE

The House of Orange has had its fair share of controversy in the thirty-one years that Queen Juliana has been on the throne. But it has come through unscathed and popular, and Queen Juliana has been receiving tributes from many different sectors of Dutch life since her announcement on Thursday that she would abdicate on April 30. The position of the Dutch monarch is broadly similar to that of the British, in that he or she is responsible for asking the most suitable person to form a new government. But the Dutch political system, which requires the formation of coalition governments, often after months of negotiations, makes more demands on the monarch in the normal course of events; and Queen Juliana is widely felt to have carried out her responsibilities with skill and propriety. She has been praised, for example, for her role in the long crisis which followed the 1977 election, when she took the view that the Socialists should be part of a new coalition because of the gains they had made, even though it eventually proved impossible.

Afghanistan invasion

From Mr Ivan Krushelnicky
Sir, Since the last Soviet act of aggression, this time against Afghanistan, various suggestions have been put forward in the columns of your newspaper, for example, to express thoughts which, I am sure, are shared by millions of people inside the Soviet Union?

between trade and political disputes does, of course, follow the existing law on the subject, though the Law Lords may well have decided on the facts of this case that this dispute remained industrial despite its extension and despite Mr Sir's ill-considered letter. There is a real difficulty in distinguishing between industrial and political pressure when the Government is the employer in a dispute. It would, however, be regrettable if the Lords brought pure political strikes for the first time under the cover of immunity. Uncertainty is still likely to surround the question whether the law sanctions secondary action wherever the strikers genuinely believe it is in furtherance of his cause, or only where there are some objective grounds for his belief. In the *McShane* case the Law Lords did not agree on that. The need for legislation is shown both by the uncertainty and the unsatisfactory nature of the law; and what is certain is not what is satisfactory.

The broad merits of the case were quite clear. The steel union called out its members in private employment not because of any dispute the union or its members had with the private employers, but because the supply of privately-made steel was undermining the effects of the strike in the public sector. The private employers were unwilling to strike, which is not to be wondered at when the union provides no strike pay and wage increases in the public sector

however, and we have little reason to think ourselves more prescient than previous generations. Indeed, even if this assumption proved to be correct, the outbreak of war in Europe would still leave Britain with a lot of catching up to do. And outside Aesop, the tortoise does not always enjoy a happy ending. The argument in favour of Mr Fraser's proposal is that by being compulsory it would be comprehensive. If the Government did suddenly find themselves in need of additional manpower, either to fill out the armed forces or to help the emergency services at home, they would at least know where to find it.

One argument against, however, is that a list of names and addresses of untrained, unequipped young men, however able and willing, would be of little use unless one had the machinery to mobilize them and to capitalize upon their skills. Under present plans such machinery would not be in place. All the service training establishments would, for instance, be run down on the outbreak of war; their staffs would be needed in the front line.

Another argument against Mr Fraser's proposal is that compulsory registration might cause more trouble than it would be worth. However minimal it might

would be of no direct benefit to them. Their feelings have probably not changed, but, with the threat of further pickets, they will very probably feel obliged to stop work again. No body of workers should be brought out on strike without being given a chance to reject the strike plan in a ballot.

Among workers in the public sector, the legal battle and victory will probably strengthen morale and sense of rectitude (already high) in a dispute which is exacting heavy costs from them, and seems set for a long haul yet. The private employers now have no means of redress for the losses they are suffering, because of a dispute that they are not parties to. It is wrong that they should not; the House of Lords may be correct in its interpretation of the law, as applied to the facts of this case, but its judgment does not in the broad sense achieve justice.

We are sometimes told by scholarly lawyers that Magna Carta has no longer any force in British courts; that it is not binding. The private steel employers will have had that scholarly point brought home to them in the most vivid way. "To no one will we sell, deny or delay rights or justice." When it comes to trade union law the House of Lords holds, repeatedly and perhaps correctly, that no rights or justice exist under British statutes.

seem, one can imagine the howl of protest in Parliament, among the unions, in the universities. The British object even to census returns and would assuredly complain about any more regular, more significant scrutiny.

A preferable idea would be to encourage the voluntary registration of those who would be willing to place their particular skills at the service of the country should the need arise. This could include not only those who would enlist in the armed forces but also those who would help swell the emergency services at home. We would in effect create a reserve of reserves who would move into the places vacated by the existing reserves after mobilization and could be quickly trained to make up the next echelon. One-day courses could be organized to explain to them in advance what might be expected of them, and where they should report.

There is plenty of good will in Britain. Compulsory registration might run the risk of eroding this. Voluntary registration would capitalize upon it. A manageable list of enthusiastic, skilled volunteers would be more valuable than an unwieldy register of reluctant conscripts. It is after all the same principle of quality as opposed to quantity on which our regular armed forces are modelled.

longer held against the Royal Family by most Dutch people.

Princess Beatrix is known for having strong opinions of her own, and is expected to see her role as a more forceful one than her mother chose. She provoked a controversy of her own when she became engaged to Prince Claus van Amsterg, then a German citizen. The objection was simply that he was German, and it provoked a tense atmosphere at their wedding in Amsterdam in 1966, when 8,000 troops and police were brought in to line the route, protests were made by local Jewish leaders, and smoke bombs were thrown by protesters. But on that occasion, too, the storm passed and Prince Claus has been fully accepted by the Dutch; indeed he has made an excellent contribution to Dutch life. Today the republican tendencies which emerged in the 1960s have died down. Princess Beatrix will be becoming Queen at a time when the House of Orange is widely accepted in The Netherlands, and when she herself, whatever apprehensions may be felt about her forceful character and her supposedly left-wing views, will be given a genuine welcome.

For much too long the West has not shown any initiative in matters concerning liberty of man and of peoples inside the Soviet Union allowing the Russians a free hand for subversion in all corners of the world.

Yours faithfully,
IVAN KRUSHELNICKY,
38 South View Avenue,
Caversham,
Reading,
January 11.

Breezy informality?

From Mr Simon Cave
Sir, I wonder if other visitors to Brussels this week have seen the appropriate new sign at the air terminal pointing to the coiffeur/aideur?
Yours etc,
SIMON CAVE,
3 Model Cottages,
East Sheen, SW14,
January 31.

Teaching of maths in primary schools

From Mr R. P. Welch

Sir, When I read your report (January 31) that there has been a "sharp decline" in the performance of primary schoolchildren when applying their basic concepts and skills in more complex or unfamiliar settings, I dug out my own primary maths books, from the mid-fifties, to compare them with the work I am doing with a group of 20 comparable 11-year-olds at this school.

I found in my old books a much smaller volume of work, concentrated on excellence in a very few items. I found that when I was 10 I could work out by long division that 234.04, when divided by 25, was 9.3616. I could also do it when I was eight. That sort of "sum" was about the peak of my achievement and it enabled me to sail through the 11-plus a year early. Our school was very well thought of locally.

A comparison with that level of computation might well show a decline in achievement, but my present children have studied decimals, fractions, geometry and shape, algebraic representation, statistics and graphwork to a far higher level than I did. They have a greater awareness of what maths is all about and they are now learning that most valuable of skills, particularly in the days of the calculator, the art of estimation.

I have no doubt that today's well-taught children know and learn much more maths than did those children who were considered well-taught 20 or more years ago. The less able child, too, is far better off today than he was. He has more interesting things than did his predecessors, who spent years miserably struggling over problems without ever grasping what they were all about. (He still has to learn his tables.)

If this report is really saying that there is more unsound teaching now than there used to be, and that maths is suffering in these bad classrooms along with other subjects, it may well be right. In a profession that pays peanuts there is bound to be some monkeys.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WELCH,
Headmaster,
St Andrew's C of E Primary School,
Chinnor,
January 31.

The road to Belgrade

From the Editor of The Observer

Sir, Bernard Levin misrepresents me (January 23). I did not say that Soviet intervention in Yugoslavia was "unlikely". On the contrary I said: "That's the big danger—an infinitely bigger danger, even, than the invasion of Afghanistan, especially for European and American interests."

I pointed to the obvious fact that the Soviet Union does not share a common border with Yugoslavia and that in order to invade Yugoslavia it would need to move troops through Hungary (where it has no right) or Romania (where it has none). I expressed "the hope" (no more) that the attitude of the Romanians and Hungarians to such use of their territory would make the invasion of Yugoslavia more difficult for the Russians than the invasion of Afghanistan.

Mr Levin evidently believes that this hope is a forlorn or even foolish one; and given the ruthlessness of the Russians in Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968, and now in Afghanistan, he may be right. But it is "by no means certain" as I put it on the radio, that the Hungarian and Romanian reaction could be predicted or ignored.

President Ceausescu has always refused Soviet troops access to Romania, even on manoeuvres. His recent speech suggests that this resolve has hardened since Afghanistan. The Hungarian Government's response would depend on the circumstances; it would be reluctant to assist the invasion of a fraternal country, but obviously could not stop the Russians if they were determined.

There must be some doubt, though, whether the Hungarian army, which is now a national force, would cooperate in the use of its territory to quash the only type of Communism that offers Hungarians any hope. Even in 1956, the Hungarian Defence Minister, General Maléter, one of the most reliable figures in the Warsaw Pact, signed his name against the Russian invaders. Hungarians should never be taken for granted.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD TRELFOED,
The Observer,
8 St Andrews Hill, EC4,
January 23.

Common law wives

From Mr J. Guyon Jones

Sir, In *The Times*, January 29, Trevor Fishlock mentions that your directions to your colleagues outlaw the use of the term "common law wife". Probation officers in their reports to courts find the term particularly useful when referring to non-statutory partnerships between a man and a woman, and some years ago this incurred the wrath of a distinguished circuit judge.

I was asked to advise my colleagues that the term "common law wife" was applicable in only three circumstances, namely, a couple who were married at sea by a ship's captain; a couple married by dissenting ministers prior to 1953; and those married in a British consulate. (Being married in a British Embassy does not apply.)

Any acceptable alternatives would be appreciated, but not "mistress" or "spouse" please! Yours faithfully,
J. GUYON JONES,
Chief Probation Officer,
Gwent Probation and After-Care Service,
9 Gold Tops,
Newport,
Gwent,
January 31.

Amendment to the abortion law

From Canon G. B. Bentley

Sir, Dom Gregory Dix used to say that if, in an argument, someone started talking about the Holy Spirit, it was time to put your watch safely in an inside pocket. I think similar precautions need to be taken when the Bishop of Durham's new January 20 introduction of the notion of "personhood" into the discussion of abortion.

Such obscurities aside, what are the facts? At conception a new, genetically complete centre of life comes into existence. To what species does it belong? *Homo sapiens*, surely. Therefore to destroy it is to destroy a human life.

We cannot escape that conclusion by magnifying the significance of birth, for there is patently no discontinuity between a life in the womb and a life after birth has changed its environment.

There is therefore no essential difference between the ancient practice of exposing an unwanted child and the modern practice of killing him before birth. In either case a unique human existence is effectively terminated.

If then the law ought to protect human beings from others who find their existence inconvenient, it must protect them before birth no less than after; for protection after cannot benefit those who are killed before. Where deliberate killing is concerned, a "code of practice" is not enough.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. BENTLEY,
The Cloisters,
Winkfield Castle,
Berkshire,
January 30.

From Dr Bryan Thwaites

Sir, There must be thousands, maybe millions, of ordinary people like myself who, when they are young, find their lives full of learning and practice the Anglican faith, find all too little guidance from their priests and in particular from their Church's hierarchy on fundamental issues.

Today's letter from the Bishop of Durham is a textbook example of how church leaders nowadays leave their flock suspended in mid-air without any means of support. Allow me, Sir, to take just two or three of his many incomprehensible points.

He first declares with utmost confidence that his (our?) choice of abortion in terms of "difficult choice between evils". To begin with, this is a patently false assertion. Next it totally disregards the fact that evil comes in different forms which may be incommensurable.

And he then implies without any argument that his (our?) choice is essentially difficult—in a later paragraph it has escalated to being "agonisingly difficult" in the context of his condemnation of "shrill certainties"—whereas it may be equally essentially easy.

Later he reminds us with apparent satisfaction that a C of E working party in the 1960s "refused to define the status of the fertilized ovum". If the Roman Catholic Church, not to mention other religions, can make this definition for the help and guidance of their adherents, why is our Anglican Church so unsure of itself? Is Protestantism now simply reduced to subjectivism?

As for the Bishop's last two paragraphs, they are completely secular in content—they could refer to almost any aspect of society's activities from watching football matches through share dealing to housebreaking—and have no spiritual, religious or theological content whatsoever; and yet they represent, presumably, the learned

Banishing Dr Sakharov

From Dr Alexander Shtramov

Sir, As a Soviet lawyer and legal scientist and as a citizen of the USSR resident in this country, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that Michael Sinyon's statement in *The Times* (January 23) issue of your newspaper, saying that Dr Sakharov's banishment "is not illegal, as it was carried out under long-standing administrative regulations", is incorrect.

In the whole corps of published Soviet law now in force, such administrative regulations do not exist. If, however, such regulations could be found in the multitude of secret Soviet statutes (and no one without a special permit for access to Soviet state secrets can be sure whether it could or could not be), these regulations should be anyway considered as illegal and unconstitutional by Soviet legal standards themselves. For, according to Soviet law, banishment and exile are exclusively criminal punishments (Foundations of Criminal Legislation of the USSR and Union Republics, article 21) and the 1977 new Soviet Constitution proclaims that: "No one can be... subjected to criminal punishment other than by the verdict of a court and in accordance with the law" (article 160).

It should be pretty obvious from the above that by banishing Academician Sakharov the Soviet authorities grossly violated not only the ordinary Soviet law but also the Constitution of the USSR, the same basic law of their country of which they so hard to use to their counter-propaganda efforts concerned with the presentation of the state of human rights in the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER SHTRAMOV,
Crescent House,
The University,
Salford,
Lancashire,
January 25.

A grave in Naples

From Mr R. L. D. Jasper

Sir, I have seen Miss Morton's letter in your issue of today (January 31) about the Old Protestant Cemetery at Naples.

I cannot comment on recent events at Naples. But there are two points which a retired officer once responsible for this question, I think that I can properly make.

First, before and during my time at Naples, and I imagine subsequently, attempts were made to get into touch with the families of those buried in the Old Cemetery, to raise an adequate fund for maintenance. The attempt made in my time evoked virtually no response at all.

We could not be expected to spot all connexions, and it may be that the Somerville connexion was not noticed. But a substantial number of organizations and eminent families interested in the often architecturally important—tombs of the early nineteenth century were written to. It was explained that at that time the minimum fund for maintenance by what amounted to a small levy on current burials in the New Cemetery, that no other funds were available, and that meanwhile the Old Cemetery was slowly declining into ruin.

Secondly, it would be interesting to know how often, say, the past 50 years Somerville College has officially visited its founder's grave

cleric's final conclusions on the matter.

To plagiarize the title of a brilliant lecture I recently heard: "what are the righteous doing?" Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Miltonhorpe,
Winchester,
January 30.

From Dr Colin Brewer

Sir, The Bishop of Durham's letter (January 30) goes to the very heart of the endless abortion debate. In questioning whether "human life" begins at conception, he makes a point which I have been trying to make in a different way by drawing attention to the fact that the intrauterine "contraceptive" device (the IUD or coil) actually works after conception by destroying the foetus at a very early stage. It is therefore a pre-emptive abortifacient and the half million British IUD users probably abort more foetuses each year than the total number of registered abortions since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act.

The IUD represents abortion on demand and as such it should surely be as vigorously opposed by anti-abortionists as abortion a little later in pregnancy. Alternatively, if they can accept abortion by the IUD, they must explain on what medical, moral or theological grounds they distinguish between the acceptable destruction of a three-month foetus and the unacceptable destruction of a three-week-old one.

Indeed, unless those who would restrict or prohibit abortion insist on the same restrictions for the IUD, on the grounds that a foetus is just a small baby, then it means that they have effectively stepped

arguing about the morality of abortion and are simply concerned, as I am, that it should be done as early as possible. And with existing techniques, an unwelcome pregnancy can be detected and terminated within two weeks of conception. Would not this be a more generally acceptable approach to the problem of abortion than that contained in Mr Corrie's Bill?

Yours etc,
COLIN BREWER,
14 Abercorn Place, NW8,
January 30.

From Mr W. W. Hamilton, MP for

Fife Central (Labour)
Sir, Mr Corrie either doesn't understand his own Abortion (Amendment) Bill, or else he is trying to conceal its intent.

His letter of January 30 implies that the criteria for obtaining an abortion remain as they were in the original 1967 Act.

But his most important amendments are Mr Corrie's insertion of the words "serious" and "substantially" when referring to the injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman and to the risk of aborting, against continuing with the pregnancy.

These vague words are deliberately inserted to create doubt, uncertainty and fear of prosecution, in the minds of doctors. The words are there despite the views of the authoritative Lane Committee that no such uncertainty should be created.

At virtually every critical point, the Corrie Bill flies in the face of all reputable medical opinion, and against the known views of the government departments principally concerned.

It will be a bad day for Parliament, and for women, if the Bill ever reaches the Statute Book.

Yours sincerely,
W. W. HAMILTON,
House of Commons,
January 31.

clusively criminal punishments (Foundations of Criminal Legislation of the USSR and Union Republics, article 21) and the 1977 new Soviet Constitution proclaims that: "No one can be... subjected to criminal punishment other than by the verdict of a court and in accordance with the law" (article 160).

It should be pretty obvious from the above that by banishing Academician Sakharov the Soviet authorities grossly violated not only the ordinary Soviet law but also the Constitution of the USSR, the same basic law of their country of which they so hard to use to their counter-propaganda efforts concerned with the presentation of the state of human rights in the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER SHTRAMOV,
Crescent House,
The University,
Salford,
Lancashire,
January 25.

or made offers to maintain it. If it has done both I must, of course, apologize.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN JASPER,
Russell Hotel,
Warrior Square,
St Leonard's,
Sussex,
January 31.

The rivals

From Mr Ronald Mason

Sir, "Pipped" by Capital Radio (report January 31)? Not quite. A nationally networked BBC Festival of plays by Shaw has been in preparation for some time. It will include two of the plays which you have been acquired by one of London's commercial radio stations.

The BBC Festival will consist of a dozen full length plays, several drawn from our archive of productions of the Shaw canon. The casts include many of Britain's leading artists. This is only a part of more than a thousand hours of radio drama we have planned for this year.

I will take the production of *Major Barbara* into rehearsal in three weeks' time.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MASON,
Head of Drama, Radio,
BBC,
Broadcasting House, W1,
January 31.

Union troubles on concert platform

From Mr David Atherton and others

Sir, Although music, and particularly chamber music, is thought to be a liberal art and a field of free enterprise, a number of incidents have been reported during the last two months (in your own columns and elsewhere) where the Musicians' Union has found it necessary to intervene and prevent concerts, broadcasts and recordings from taking place as planned. (Groups and individuals involved include, for example, George Malcolm and the Academy of Ancient Music, together with the Decca and Phonogram recording companies.)

The resulting distress of public, sponsors and players suggests that not all these applications of rule XIV, para 8 to a member shall undertake an engagement to play with or in the same establishment as or engage a musician who is not a member... are beneficial or even logical. A recent directive from Mr John Norton, general secretary of the union, has admitted three exceptions on "a rather slender constitutional basis", namely orchestral conductors, soloists with orchestras and "certain types of performance with bona fide amateur musicians".

A cursory glance through London concert plans announced for 1980 will reveal a large number of contracted engagements, many of them chamber music, which cannot be ahead if rule XIV/8 were to be strictly applied. Several of our leading ensembles, soloists and accompanists who are not members have for years assumed, apparently in error, that to perform with union members in small groups (not to be the traditionally quoted maximum) was permissible.

Several distinguished foreign visitors have habitually flouted this ruling in well publicized London concerts, and both the English musicians and the English public appear eager that they should continue to give such performances (it would be sad never to hear the Anadeus give another performance of the "Trout" Quintet with an English bass-player, and a lost to English music-players never to combine with Barenboim for the Mozart piano and wind quintet).

Historically speaking, conductors are a recent invention. Music of the eighteenth century and earlier was made in the home, in the parlour, the harpsichord or the violin, and recent revivals of "authentic" performance have proved the validity of this practice.

It would seem illogical of the union, therefore, not to extend to this form of music the immunity it offers to the nineteenth and twentieth-century style of director. It would seem doubly illogical when a distinguished soloist is permitted to perform and direct a Mozart concerto, but must needs be replaced by a union player when he would attempt to direct a Mozart symphony in the same way. Yet that is how the rule would have it.

Since it would obviously be unjust to encourage a selective application of these union restrictions, we would like to emphasize the obvious need of a body representing the feelings of performers involved in "authentic" and chamber music to be available to advise the union on the detrimental effect that zealous and literal application of rule XIV/8 will have on these flourishing areas of English musical life.

It would be regretted by the undersigned if over-enthusiastic collectivist thinking were to lose Britain the undoubtedly lead she has in these fields and reduce what should be a liberal art to a deprived industry.

A suggestion of a conference to discuss the problem, and/or the recognition of a body to monitor the effects of union rules on the art should be construed, therefore, not as anti-union, but simply as pro-music.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ATHERTON,
PATRICK CORMACK, MP,
HAREWOOD,
CHRISTOPHER HOGWOOD,
GEORGE MALCOLM,
NEVILLE MARRNER,
SIMON ROBERTS,
ANTHONY ROOLEY,
2 Claremont,
Hills Road,
Cambridge.

Wasted advertising

From Mr N. E. Hampel

Sir, For many years I have been amazed at the countless thousands of pounds spent on advertising by the national industries marketing their wares—particularly coal and electricity and to some extent rail, telephones, postal services, railways, etc. What a furious waste of our money, as frequently the customer has no choice, and if he has, the services are often unable to meet the resultant increased demand.

We are now told that gas prices must increase dramatically in the next few months. Can we not save a great deal of public money by cutting out all marketing activity throughout nationalized industries where a monopoly exists?

Yours faithfully,
N. E. HAMPEL,
Two Oaks,
Slade Oak Lane,
Denham, Buckinghamshire.

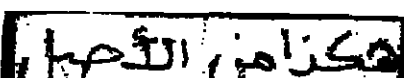
The price of gas

From Chester Herald of Arms

Sir, I cannot understand what is wrong with graduated charges for gas and electricity. Such a system works in the case of income tax and would surely provide the necessary deterrent against wasting fuel: the more you use the higher would become the tariff.

It is all very well to say that the needy will be reimbursed, but who pays the army of officials required to deal with all the claims, and why should the old and the sick be obliged to struggle through wintry weather to queue and argue in civil government offices?

Yours truly,
HUBERT CHESHYRE,
College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street,
London, EC4.



Wales and Leeds will contest Stevenson ban



Stevenson : was cleared at an internal inquiry.

The severity of the injury may have affected the size of the sentence. If Stevenson was guilty, his action cannot be defended, but it is to be hoped UEFA were aware of the provocation that the Welsh players experienced on and off the field. Even before the match had begun, they were pelted with tangerines and

sheepskin

Wilkins failed a fitness test on a foot injury and although he will not play for Manchester United today, he hopes to be fit for England's European Championship game against the Republic of Ireland next Wednesday. He is replaced by Jovanovic, who joined United from Red Star Belgrade but has not yet played in a league match. Jovanovic was brought as a defender but began as a forward

PARTY: C. W. Bailey (Manchester United), G. Wright (Queens Park Rangers), M. Wright (Everton), W. Gilbert (Crystal Palace), R. Oaman

Scottish premier division

Scottish first division

Airdrie v Clydebank
Arbroath v Stirling Albion

Scottish second division

Brechin v Montrose (P)
East Fife v Stenhousemuir
Falkirk v Cowdenbeath
Queen of Sth v Queen's Park
Stranraer v Forfar

Squash rackets
Sun Life British amateur champion-
ship at Wembley
British Airways Open (at: Guernsey),

Tomorrow

Rugby League
 First division: Blackpool v Bolton
 v Macclesfield v Bradford North
 v Warrington (3.30); Hull v Leeds; Hunslet
 v Hull Kingston Rovers (3.30); Leigh
 v Wigan (3.30); Workington v Widnes
 (3.30); Wakefield Trinity.
 Second division: Batley v Hurton
 Doncaster v Barrow; Featherstone
 v Dewsbury; Halifax v White
 haven (3.30); Huddersfield v Swinton
 (3.30); Keighley v Bramley (3.15).

Football
 Northern Premier League: Workson
 v Gateshead.

Basketball
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Women: First

division: Scandinavian Homes Solent
v Coventry (2.30). Cup: Semi-final
England second leg: Corvus Luton v
Crystal Palace Toppics: Man: Masters.
Oxalife Home Hempstead v Sunbless
Sunderland (2.0): Team Fit Coventry
v Northampton (3.0): Final
17.30.

Silough HC-1, 1.45; Worcestershire v Essex (Bournemouth HC, 2.0).
 Bedfordshire v Hertfordshire
 v Bedfordshire (Watford); Bedfordshire
 v Lincolnshire A (Luton); Sussex A
 v Maid Hatters (Epsomouth); Wiltshire
 U-21 v Kent U-21; Cambridge Wanderers
 (Risham Abbey, 11.00).
 Berkshire U-21 v South Yorkshire
 U-21 (Wokingham); Bedfordshire
 v Berkshire U-21; Watford; Middlesex
 U-21 v Kent U-21 (Park Royal);
 Somerset U-21 v Gloucestershire
 (Somerset); Westcliff HC v Essex
 U-21 (Westcliff).
 London League: Mid-Surrey v Hounslow.
 Women's South County Championship:
 Middlesex v Surrey; Roehampton

Lacrosse
 v Women's Club matches: Harpenden
 v Match End: Weybridge v Purley.
 Triangular match: Pulney v Barnet v
 Royston.

gfts

Motoring: Monte Carlo rally
 (2.10)
Wrestling: Reading promotion

BBC 2
Cricket: Australia v England
(6.40)
Table tennis: Orlovski v Gergely
(7.25)
Darts: World professional championships (10.55)
BBC 2—tomorrow
Rugby Union: Review of internationals (4.25)
Cricket: Australia v England
(5.40)

Darts : World championships
(10.55)
ITV—tomorrow
Football : Big Match, (2.45)

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأخبار

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

■ **Stock markets**
FT Ind 447.8 down 5.5
FT Gilt 66.45 down 0.82

■ **Sterling**
\$2.2740 up 70 points
Index 72.0 up 0.2

■ **Dollar**
Index 85.2 up 0.1

■ **Gold**
\$677.5 up \$27.5

■ **Money**
3 month Sterling 17 1/2 to 17 3/4
3 month Euro \$ 14 1/2 to 14 3/4
6 month Euro \$ 14 1/2 to 14 3/4

IN BRIEF

Barclays step nearer to US acquisition

Barclays Bank has won the approval of the New York Federal Reserve Bank to buy 31 branches with deposits of \$365m (£161.5m) from the Bankers Trust Company. The acquisition will boost the total assets of the Barclays New York Corporation, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Barclays International, to close to \$1,000m (nearly £443m).

A spokesman for Barclays noted that the bank still needs the approval of the New York state banking authorities to go ahead with the branch acquisition.

Sanctions rejected

British businessmen have rejected unilateral trade sanctions by Britain against the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan. A Confederation of British Industry delegation, led by its president Sir John Greenough, has made its views clear at a meeting with Lord Carrington at the Foreign Office yesterday.

New bank chairman

Signor Rinaldo Ossola, above, former Foreign Trade Minister, has been appointed chairman of Banco di Napoli, a publicly controlled bank and the largest in the South of Italy.

Ford raises prices

Ford is to raise its car prices in Britain by an average of 4 per cent from Monday. The company said the increases, which follow average rises of 3.8 per cent in November and 4.8 per cent last June, reflected rises in production costs.

Aerospace recovery

Britain's aerospace exports recovered in November after a two-month drop after last year's engineering strike. The total £110,939,000 for the month, bringing the eleven-month total for January-November 1979 to £1,156,924,000.

Coal Board grants

The National Coal Board is to receive grants totalling £7.27 million under account (4.8m) to help finance research into coal mining and processing technology, the European Commission announced yesterday.

Dow Jones average up

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.63 to close at 881.48. The volume of shares traded on the New York stock exchange fell 17 million from the 65.9 million traded on Thursday. The \$SDR was 1.3188 and the \$SDR was 1.505474.

Recall of £500m special deposits postponed to aid money markets

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England is to delay next week's planned recall of special deposits from the banking system to avoid aggravating the present shortage of funds in the money markets.

Its decision means that the banks will retain some £500m for their everyday use that they would otherwise have had to place back on deposit at the Bank of England next Friday.

Arrangements for the recall of a further £500m on March 7 still stand, however, and the funds originally scheduled for recall next Friday will now become due on April 8.

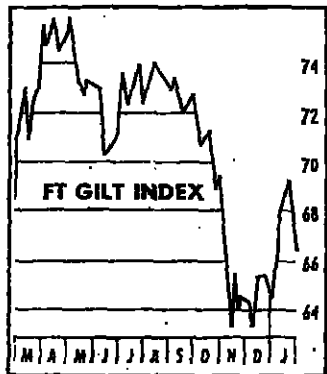
The Bank's move does not represent any relaxation of monetary policy. It is simply a temporary measure to prevent short-term interest rates from going sky-high during a period in which money is flowing strongly out of the banking system into the hands of the Exchequer.

On top of the normal seasonal flow of tax payments to the Exchequer, the private sector has also been a heavy buyer of government securities over recent weeks. Large tax payments are expected to continue through most of February, while "calls" on government stock already sold will require financing to the tune of £500m.

In addition, subscribers to last October's sale of BP shares will have to put up a further £170m next week to complete payment for their stock.

The recent shortage of funds in the money markets has meant that the Bank of England has had to give large assistance to the discount houses on a regular basis, with the daily help sometimes exceeding £100m.

Increasingly short-term interest rates have been extremely firm, with money for periods of up to three months costing at least 17 per cent and on some days



FT GILT INDEX

appreciably more on an overnight basis.

The fact that next Friday's recall of special deposits has been put back to April 8 does not automatically mean that there is a possibility of the Bank of England's minimum lending rate (MLR) being cut before that date.

Where there sufficient signs of improvement in the underlying monetary situation over the next few weeks, the Chancellor could still decide to cut MLR around the time of his Budget on March 26.

However, financial markets are increasingly uncertain as to how soon they should expect an MLR reduction and this uncertainty, coupled with the continuing high cost of borrowed short-term funds, led to a sharp increase in Treasury Bill rates at yesterday's weekly tender.

Three month bills were allotted at an average rate of discount of 16.1858 per cent compared with 15.7443 per cent the previous Friday.

Uncertainty over the future course of interest rates, anxiety about the change marks the final figures for the January banking month and continuing indecision after January heavy stock purchases, again weighed on prices yesterday.

Restriction agreed for this year but voluntary limit on shipments doubtful in 1981

Japan may end curbs on car sales to UK

By Edward Townsend

Japanese car makers are now almost certain to impose a voluntary restriction on shipments of vehicles to the United Kingdom this year but are likely to scrap their policy of restraint in 1981.

This has emerged from the meeting in Mexico earlier this week between leaders of Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association.

The Japanese made clear their dissatisfaction with restrictions that have held back their share of the British market to under 11 per cent for the past four years.

According to the SMMT yesterday the Japanese association said after the talks that it hoped the country's car manufacturers would continue to be

"prudent" about exports to Britain.

It was thought significant that the Japanese used the word "hoped" in their statement, implying that 1980 would be the last year that a voluntary restraint could be expected.

The Japanese importing companies in the United Kingdom have become increasingly vociferous about the effect that restrictions have had on the market. They claim, that although the restraint was agreed originally to help British Leyland recover its market position, European manufacturers have taken advantage of BL's problems and have mounted aggressive and unrestricted sales campaigns in Britain.

Imported cars now account for almost 60 per cent of the new car market in the United Kingdom, double the level of 1975. Last week the largest of the companies importing Japanese cars, Datsun UK, launched a controversial advertising campaign protesting that the restriction had only benefited continental competitors.

Datsun dealers, it said, had been the scapegoats for the high level of imports into Britain.

Industry leaders in Britain have admitted that Japan has been singled out but have stressed that trade in motor products between the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe is far greater than that between the United Kingdom and Japan.

In 1979, European manufacturers bought British components worth £500m compared with Japanese purchases of less than £10m.

Although there has been no direct pressure on the Japanese from the British Government to restrict car exports to the United Kingdom, it has been made clear that action could be

taken if there was no agreement on an industry-to-industry basis.

The Japanese trade association appears to have agreed to a fifth year of restraint, it is significant that there has been no mention of a restriction of market share.

Britain's new car market this year is widely forecast to fall from last year's record 1.7 million units to 1.5 million and may be even lower. If Japanese shipments were based on their capturing a market share similar to that of 1979 their actual sales in Britain would be likely to drop for the first time.

Total sales of Japanese cars in Britain last year were 185,084. If the same level is repeated in 1980 it would represent more than 12 per cent of the expected sales.

John Earle writes from Rome: The Italian Government has set up a working group to look into

the difficulties of the nation's car industry. Its members from the ministries of industry, budget, labour and state-owned industry will investigate particularly the industry's loss of ground in Europe and ways of increasing its market share in the 1980s.

The two biggest manufacturers are both going through adverse periods. Fiat, whose management emphasizes that the financial situation remains sound, has been facing industrial strife and a wave of terrorism. Its share of the Italian market has fallen from two thirds in the 1960s to half in the 1980s.

The state-owned Alfa Romeo concern is trying to ensure its survival through an agreement under negotiation with Nissan provided government and union consent can be obtained to dismantling the present protective barrier against Japanese penetration.

Rockwell pays £10m for stake in Serck

By Alison Mitchell

Rockwell International, the American aerospace and electronics giant, paid almost £10m yesterday for a 29.7 per cent stake in the British valves group Serck. Rockwell bought the shares rapidly yesterday morning at 75p each in the stock market.

Although the group says it has taken the holding as an investment, and is looking for a "closer relationship" with Serck, there is speculation that Rockwell will make a full bid.

The shares which started trading at 52p ended the day 17p higher at 69p. The net asset value of Serck, including deferred tax, amounts to 87.3p a share. As yet both sides are noncommittal on takeover prospects but a meeting between the two groups has been arranged for next week.

At 75p a share, Rockwell is capitalized at £32m. This compares with the £36m cash and share offer made three years ago by Associated Engineering—a bid which was not allowed by the Monopolies Commission.

At that time Serck was gaining profit and was able to almost treble the dividend as a defence tactic. No such play will be available to the board at present because in December the group was forced to cut the final dividend.

Pre-tax profit in the year to September 30, 1979, fell from £5m to £1.6m and the group had to close the loss-making tubes division. However, demand has picked up and forecasts for the current year, provided the group is not too badly affected by the steel strike, are expected to recover to around the £5m level.

Rockwell and Serck, which are in the same valves business, have in the past been involved in joint ventures. In 1968 they set up Audco to market valves worldwide. Serck bought out Rockwell's share in 1972.

Mr Ronald Martin, chairman of Serck, said last night that the purchase of the holding had taken him by surprise and that the board would wait until after meeting Rockwell before deciding on any course of action.

John Brown sells entire holding in Westland

By Philip Robinson

Engineering group John Brown sold its entire 16.4 per cent stake in Westland Aircraft yesterday for £3.3m cash.

The 9.7 million shares went through the market to a number of institutions at 70p, a 7 per cent discount on the market price at 10 am yesterday.

Westland's share price, down 3p after the deal to 74p, peaked last month at 81p following a strong profits recovery and an encouraging annual report.

John Brown held a shade over half the shares before the Second World War. It had allowed its holding to be diluted and the 16.4 per cent stake was in the books at £4.6m.

Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, the John Brown chairman, said: "We have held about 16 per cent for about four or five years. It was always on the cards that we would sell it and with the price its highest for some time it seemed the right time to sell. There was no other reason for it."

Figures were reiterated yesterday for John Brown's shareholders in the group's Class I circular outlining the agreed bid for American textile and plastics machinery group Lesona Corporation for \$800m (£25.2m), unveiled last week. Lesona's own balance sheet shows borrowings at \$6.3m and cash of \$6.7m.

The circular also shows for the first time the profits record of Lesona, for which John Brown is paying net asset value per share of \$40.

Six years ago the American group's profits were \$10.1m on sales of \$114m. That was the highest they reached until 1978 when the reorganization of its operations and the purchase of plastics group Egan Machinery took pre-tax profits from \$3.1m to \$16.6m.

Eleventh-hour pleas from unions and local politicians yesterday failed to reverse the management's decision to cease all polyester spinning at Courtaulds in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, plant shut down at a satellite factory in Larne nearby.

Courtaulds' polyester production had already been run down to only a fraction of its former level with the redundancy of 590 Ulster workers last September—a move which included the complete closure of a textile factory at Maydown near Londonderry.

At that time the company planned to continue a small-scale polyester operation in Ulster with a weekly output of only 53 tonnes. From the beginning this reduced operation was adversely affected by imports from the United States, a company spokesman said. "The effect of these has continued and intensified and the foreseeable future sales of the new smaller unit are a maximum of only 30 tonnes a week."

Closure will mean the loss of 124 staff and shop floor jobs at Larne and 96 at Carrickfergus.

Ironically Courtaulds' decision was announced as Herr Willi Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner for external affairs, was expected in the province to assess the situation in the synthetic fibres industry for himself.

Peter Norman writes: The European Commission has decided that the sharp rise in imports of low-cost synthetic fibres from the United States is a regional problem and will therefore not propose Community measures to stem the flow.

Iran follows Saudi oil move with \$2.50 rise

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Iran has raised the price of its light crude oil by \$2.50 a barrel to a base price of \$31 with effect from yesterday.

The new price will be applied to all customers. As a result the average cost of the contracts, totalling 225,000 barrels a day, signed with Shell and British Petroleum will rise to \$32.50. Half of Iranian oil sold on contract is subject to a \$3 premium over the base price.

The Iranian move follows Saudi Arabia's decision to increase the price of its light crude oil, which is the same quality as the Iranian light.

It is thought that with spot market prices having fallen to between \$30 and \$33 some prices are already looking on the high side, and another increase would be insupportable. Market analysts expect it would be more likely that a \$2 rise might be put on the Libya base price of \$30.

the indecisive conclusion of Opec's meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, in December.

By putting a further 50 cents on the Saudi increase, Iran is tempting other countries to follow a similar upward movement of their own. Iran, however, has been considered as a maverick; not fitting into any of the pricing groups which have emerged over the past month.

Britain's oil companies are awaiting a decision on further price rises by the North African producers. Nigeria is charging \$30 a barrel, Libya an effective \$34.72 and Algeria an effective \$33.

It is thought that with spot market prices having fallen to between \$30 and \$33 some prices are already looking on the high side, and another increase would be insupportable. Market analysts expect it would be more likely that a \$2 rise might be put on the Libya base price of \$30.

Takeover Panel calls for meeting on St Piran

By Michael Prest

The Takeover Panel has invited Mr Jim Raper, the Far East financier alleged to be the moving force behind the troubled affairs of St Piran, the mining and property company, to attend a meeting between itself, St Piran, Gasco Investments and other shareholders on March 21.

Mr Raper will be asked to comment on whether or not he has formed a "concert party" with Gasco Investments and various nominee shareholders in St Piran whereby he would control 30 per cent of St Piran and therefore trigger off a bid under Rule 34 of the Takeover Code.

Gasco Investments, of which Mr Raper is chairman, holds 29.6 per cent of St Piran. But Mr Raper himself holds only

1,000 shares in the company. Critics of St Piran's management claim that Mr Raper's hand extends to nominee companies in Luxembourg and Panama.

A Takeover Panel investigation has been in progress since November. St Piran confirms that a meeting under the auspices of the Takeover Panel fixed for January 18 was postponed by mutual consent of the parties concerned.

Asked if he thought Mr Raper would attend the March meeting, Mr Malcolm Stone, St Piran's chairman, said: "I would imagine he will make every effort to attend." Mr Stone, who is also managing director of Gasco, added that St Piran was consulting other shareholders to obtain affidavits that no "concert party" existed.

Fed to keep tight grip on economy

From Our United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, Feb 1

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, assured Congress today that American monetary policy would remain tight until inflation was reduced. He warned the markets that declines in interest rates, which might occur due to weak credit demand, should not be seen as any easing in the Central Bank's policies.

Mr Volcker told the joint economic committee of Congress that he was still unsure whether or not the economy was now in a recession. He indicated that he would have liked to have seen a more restrictive budget than the one proposed by President Carter this week. He said there was a danger that increased military spending might boost the estimated 1981 budget deficit of \$16,000m (about £7,000m).

Meanwhile, the Department of Labour announced an increase in unemployment here, but Dr Janet Norwood, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, stressed that "it is premature on the basis of findings for a single month to conclude at this time that a major downturn (in the economy) is underway."

Unemployment rose in December by 340,000 to 6.2 per cent from 5.9 per cent in November. This marks the first time in 18 months that the rate has moved outside the range of 5.7 to 5.9 per cent.

Mr Volcker suggested that tighter money policies appeared to be raising expectations of price stability, but these expectations had been weakened again by oil price increases. He said he was satisfied with the way money supply growth appeared to be developing.

Two-way viewdata systems announced by NEB subsidiary

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

A change of name and an impressive new product were announced yesterday by Inscac Viewdata, the National Enterprise Board's subsidiary which develops and sells improved versions of the Post Office's Prestel television-based information system.

The new name is Aregon, derived from the Greek for "helper" and judged appropriate to a company concerned with easy-to-use computer systems. The change marks the final step in the separation of the two parts of the Inscac operation—software products (now handled by Inscac Products) and viewdata systems.

The new product is a range of viewdata systems known as the IVS-3, which has been developed for Aregon by Systems Designers Ltd (SDL) of Camberley, Surrey. It will be marketed in the United Kingdom by SDL and overseas—except the United States—by Aregon International, one of the two main operating companies within the Aregon Group.

The Post Office's Prestel is essentially a one-way information service in which the user, at home or in the office, uses the telephone to call up the required pages, held in a central computer, which are displayed on a television screen.

The company's system is intended for internal company use and permits the user to insert as well as to consult information on the files. Thus it can be used as a multi-purpose communications medium within an organisation, handling messages, standard forms, management reports and graphics.

A typical IVS-3 system with 16 terminals might cost about £8,000. The software would account for about a third. Orders have already been placed



Alan Haines, manager of Systems Designers' Viewdata Division, demonstrates the new IVS-3 viewdata system.

by customers in Belgium, Switzerland and New Zealand. As part of Aregon International's European marketing, the company is setting up subsidiary companies in Amsterdam and Frankfurt.

Mr John Pearce, architect of Inscac and now managing director of the Aregon Group, said yesterday that about £4m had been invested to date by Inscac/Aregon in viewdata.

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Mr du Cann resigns from Cannon

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Government cuts back on business questionnaires Companies welcome loss of form

Government has concluded—after almost 18 months of soul-searching—that it can muddle along with less information about industry. It means that small businesses will be relieved of some of the burden of official form-filling.

Whitehall officials have just completed a review of their statistical inquiries. They discovered that, not counting the Department of Employment's annual census on jobs, 241 such surveys required the cooperation of small companies.

Each year, the companies—which for the purposes of Government definition employ fewer than 200 people—were

sent more than 1.5 million forms to be filled. It has now been decided that 15 will be discontinued and small businesses will be excluded from a further five surveys.

The number surveys—and is—small. But, yesterday, Mr David Mitchell, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, explained that it meant that the number of forms sent annually to small businesses would be reduced by about 277,000, or 18 per cent.

Moreover, he said in a Parliamentary answer, further 342,000 forms, representing 22 per cent of the total, had been "simplified to some extent".

The Department of Employment is looking separately at the possibility of asking small businesses fewer questions. Department of Industry officials are still collecting details of the inquiries which are being abandoned. One survey now certain not to go ahead is the 1981 retail shops census.

Last November, Mr Mitchell told the Small Business Bureau that a column of questionnaires as high as Big Ben had already been prevented from landing on the desks of small businesses because of rigorous scrutiny and tighter control.

John Huxley

PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Grievities	20c to 830c	Seatruck	50c to 725c		
Gulfair Corp	15p to 724p	Serck	15c to 875c		
Howard Mach	4p to 21p	Wholesale Fit	35p to 495p		
Jacks W	5p to 42p	Wood & Sons	4p to 34p		
Killinghall	30p to 460p				

Falls					
Andronic	1p to 7p	Peko Wallace	15p to 465p		
Barker & Dobson	21p to 29p	Racal	10p to 224p		
Broken Hill	20p to 655p	Shibaura	10p to 346p		
Metals Box	12p to 238p	Town & City	12p to 18p		
Northgate Ex	50p to 585p	Whitings	2p to 18p		

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.11	2.04	Norway Kr	11.02	11.02
Austria Sch	30.00	28.00	Portugal Esc	118.00	112.00
Belgium Fr	68.25	64.75	Spain Pta	156.50	1.78
Canada \$	2.69	2.62	Sweden Kr	9.78	9.38
Denmark Kr	12.85	12.30	Switzerland Sfr	3.90	3.68
Finland Mk	9.58	9.32	Yugoslavia Dnr	52.00	48.00
France Fr	6.55	9.18			
Germany Dm	4.14	90.50			
Greece Dr	11.35	10.75	Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Harris		
Italy Lira	1.105	1.06	Harris Bank International		
Japan Yen	1980.00	1860.00	Different bank notes to travellers cheques and other foreign currency business.		
Spain Ptas	570.00	543.00			
Switzerland Sfr	4.57	4.34			

Top-up mortgages

'Take it or leave it' attitude by insurers

According to Mr Leonard Hill, chairman of the Life Offices Association, last year saw "a substantial demand for life policies taken out in connection with house purchase". Although there are no exact figures showing just how much business house purchasers put insurance companies' way, it is a valuable source of business.

"Topping up" mortgages, offered by a limited but increasing number of life offices as means of financing house purchase, also allow insurance companies to increase their endowment business, though in a small way.

Insurance companies will top up a loan when you are still short of funds after obtaining a maximum building society mortgage. But it is not your need for an extra loan that the insurance company has in mind in offering these mortgages. It is basically a public relations, or goodwill, exercise with insurance brokers and a way of drumming up further endowment assurance business for themselves. Do not drop into your local office; you will probably be referred back to an insurance broker or agent.

The amount of mortgage insurance companies are prepared to lend in "top up" mortgages is limited, although "substantially" up on last year. Normally, investment managers can find more lucrative homes for their funds, although few will sneeze at the 16-17 per cent they can get on home loans at present.

The strong demand for mortgages combined with restricted funds means that insurance companies can dictate the terms

on which they will advance money, adopting a "take it or leave it" attitude.

How much they will lend depends both on your income and the type of home you wish to buy. Further provisions are that the total advance should not exceed a particular percentage of the price. Sometimes this is as much as 90 per cent, but a less generous 75-80 per cent is more usual.

But this can be further reduced by both the maximum sum the insurance company will lend—which can vary between £5,000 and £25,000 depending on the office concerned—and the percentage of the building society loan that the office is prepared to offer. This is often as little as one third, although some offices will match the building society loan in the right circumstances.

Interest rates charged by life offices for top-up loans are normally 1 or 2 per cent above the building society recommended rate of 15 per cent. But as building societies often charge higher rates of interest for larger advances, it does not necessarily mean that the borrower will be paying more than if the whole mortgage were funded by a building society.

About half the offices in this field charge a fixed rate of interest throughout the period of the loan rather than reviewing it when the general level of interest rates alters. Taking out a top-up mortgage when interest rates are high can prove an expensive exercise. It may not be possible, but try to avoid a fixed rate contract at these levels.

There are strings attached to a top-up mortgage. The insurance company insists that both the building society loan and its own is repaid through its own endowment assurance policy. This is understandable. Less forgivable is the fact that because life offices want to maximize their premium income on this sort of business, they will not allow the whole package to be covered by a low-cost endowment policy, the now traditional cheap way of financing an endowment mortgage.

In some cases the offices will not even let you pay off the building society loan through a low-cost endowment. You therefore have the choice of financing the entire loan by a with-profits endowment—at a cost which can be prohibitive for some borrowers—or a non-profit type. This policy demands smaller monthly payments, but has little place in financial planning in inflationary times, especially if the mortgage is redeemed early.

Some offices insist that their part of the loan is financed through a non-profit endowment.

The table shows the monthly costs of a typical package, covered by different insurance policies.

Unfortunately, there is little choice when it comes to which insurance company will advance the funds and the policies that have to be taken out for the plan. It is a question of pay up or go without.

Sylvia Morris

MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

Monthly cost of a £20,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years, assuming a £13,000 advance from a building society, plus a £7,000 top-up mortgage from an insurance company.

Gross cost of building society mortgage.

Gross cost of insurance company mortgage.

Insurance policy	Interest	Insurance premium*	Interest	Insurance premium*	Total gross cost	Total net cost to basic rate tax payer
With-profits endowment	£ 165.21	£ 49.77	£ 99.17	£ 27.03	£ 341.18	£ 249.43
Low-cost endowment	165.21	23.77	99.17	† 20.3	315.10(a)	223.98(a)
Non-profit endowment	165.21	29.71	99.17	15.69	309.78	217.62(b)

* Assumes insurance policy taken out with Legal & General by man aged 30 next birthday.

† Low-cost endowment not available for top-up mortgages, see (a) and (b).

(a) With-profit endowment used to cover top-up mortgage.

(b) Non-profit endowment used to cover top-up mortgage.

Grouse

Land registration began in 1897 and was intended to make the transfer of property more simple, efficient, speedy and cheap. More than 80 years later registration is compulsory in areas inhabited by about three quarters of the population—yet it is quite possible for transfer costs to be lower in unregistered areas than in those where registration applies.

The Royal Commission on Legal Services noted, quite complacently, that registration during transfer could cause the charges to exceed those that would apply to unregistered property.

Until January, 1973, when statutory scales of fees for solicitors' conveyancing work were abolished, in the case of a £25,000 house the fee in respect of registered land would have been little more than half that in respect of unregistered land. The difference in costs was sharply reduced,

and in some cases eliminated, as soon as scale fees were abolished.

Solicitors claim that the need to investigate title is no longer as significant a factor in costs as it was.

It leaves the question for whose benefit land registration is intended? The Land Registry fee on a £30,000 house is at present £47 on first registration (one quarter of all transactions at present involve first registration) and £74 on every subsequent transfer (more than half the total of transactions involve paying land registry fees at the higher rate).

Almost all the benefits that this money buys goes to the solicitors, by simplifying their work without appreciably lessening their charges. Little wonder consumers are not consulted when it is decided what new areas should be designated for compulsory registration.

Investor's week

The market dithers on steel strike worries

We doubted, we dithered, we fussed and we fretted this week. But did we, under the lengthening shadows of the steel strike and the budget on March 26, do anything else?

Of course. We decided to wait and see. The FT index moved from 452.4 to 447.8.

City folk are no longer nonchalant about steel. At the start the strike could be shrugged off. There was plenty of steel in stock up and down the country.

But soon steel will run out. Then, if no deal is fixed, industry in general and BL (Leyland to most people) will close.

The trouble is that the City wants it both ways. It fears the inflationary cost of a surrender to the steelmen. It also wants the British Steel Corporation and its paymaster, the Government, to keep industry running. Eventually it will probably be granted this wish. But this will not be good for gilt-edged stocks or shares.

Meanwhile, unease grips the gilt-edged market. It is not a case of indignation after the previous week's mistakes in tendering for government stock. The Chancellor has obviously not got government borrowing under control.

Value-added tax revenue is coming in too slowly; the EEC is not obliging Mr Thatcher to cut in our contributions; and the problem remains that if Sir Geoffrey Howe's Britain produces one per cent less than Mr Hesley's, and spends one per cent less in the public sector, the borrowing requirement does not fall. The City waits for the Government to try harder.

For solace, investors had little in the way of companies reporting to distract them, save for BAT, whose profits were lowered by a strong pound, and Associated Dairies, which earned interim profits of £22.5m against £15m, but before starting another battle in the grocery price war.

We marvelled at Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey's ability to pay about £41m for nearly a fifth of Lombe, but he has not got it yet; and two big favourites nearly came good. Vaux Breweries got £21m for its Scottish outlets from Allied Breweries, but not a bid; while Serck shot up on US Rockwell's purchase of a 30 per cent stake and request for talks about getting closer.

PW

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
			Rises	
131p	75p	Allied Textile	9p to 98p	Good yearly figs
179p	93p	Caffyns	36p to 179p	Brit Car Auctions stake
243p	128p	Ladbroke	12p to 199p	Big talk
493p	315p	Solihby PB	25p to 495p	US buying; inflation
181p	121p	Vaux	14p to 150p	Allied Brew's deal
			Falls	
189p	114p	Beecham	11p to 117p	Drug price cut fears
162p	126p	Dowly	18p to 158p	Int figs due Wed
600p	388p	Glaxo	13p to 470p	Drug price cut fears
358p	220p	Metals Box	12p to 238p	Steel strike; key-offs
264p	148p	Tricentral	16p to 262p	Sector profit-taking

Law

When leasehold can be a better buy

The vast majority of flats and maisonettes in England and Wales are leasehold, so that the tenant is entitled to stay there for a fixed number of years only. Admittedly, when his lease comes to an end he usually has the right to an extension by virtue of the Rent Acts; but, even so, a flat or maisonette held on a short lease, say three or five years, is seldom salable.

But it is easy to borrow on a short lease. The key to the problem is the length of the repayment period. Generally a lease which has less than 30 years to run where the borrower requests a repayment period of 20 years.

On the other hand, a borrower who can repay over 10 years will usually be able to get a loan on a 30-year lease. The normal rule of thumb is that the lender will want at least 20 years plus whatever period is sought for repayment. No matter how desirable the property, such a safety margin is needed in case the building society has to take possession and sell the flat in the event of non-payment.

On the other hand, a flat with a long lease of, say, 50 or 99 years, is a valuable asset. In general, the longer the lease, the more it is worth and the easier it is to borrow on the strength of it.

Buying a flat is much more complicated than buying a freehold house, which is unlikely to be subject to more than the odd restrictive covenant or two. Leases are almost invariably complex and sometimes virtually unintelligible.

Few lawyers these days take the trouble to discuss a lease in detail with the prospective buyer. The photocopying machine has enabled them to avoid this chore. They simply send a copy and invite him to read it through himself and to raise queries only on the parts he does not understand.

For the layman one of the most mysterious clauses relates to forfeiture. It gives the landlord the right to forfeit the lease and re-take possession if rent is unpaid for 21 days or more or if the tenant has committed a breach of covenant.

Lawyers explain that in practice this clause is seldom



The longer the lease of a flat or maisonette the more valuable the asset.

strictly enforceable because the court will always extend the period stipulated in the lease so as to give the tenant relief from forfeiture provided he carries out his obligations within a reasonable time.

In any case, apart from rent in arrears, he will always be sent a prior warning notice in the statutory form, before court proceedings.

The sting in the tail of many leases lies in the heavy service charges which the landlord is entitled to levy in addition to the rent. These are not itemised in the lease itself and vary from year to year. They represent the particular flat's share of the cost of repair and upkeep of the entire building—its common parts, lifts, lighting, powerage, central heating and all the other services and amenities which the landlord undertakes to provide.

Last year's service charges are not necessarily indicative of next year's. The danger for an incoming tenant is that he may walk straight into paying towards the cost of a new lift or a new roof.

This sort of latent liability



a freehold flat could be a hazardous investment, besides being an undesirable security for the building society itself.

You cannot be sure that the other flat owners in the block will carry out repairs. If your neighbour in the flat upstairs or downstairs lets his flat get into a dilapidated condition and you cannot make him carry out repairs, you are in trouble.

Parliament has ignored a long-standing recommendation of the Law Commission to change the law to make positive covenants binding on a freehold. Consequently, while freehold flats are common north of the border and in the EEC, they are looked upon with disfavour in England and Wales, except by certain housing associations.

There is one exception. Where a freehold house has been divided into two flats, one of which is let on a long lease, most societies will lend on security of the flat which remains and which is still freehold, since it comprises the original freehold of the entire house.

Telephoning the head office of the Halifax, she learnt that

Unsigned codicil to a will

In her last will dated July, 1966, my mother-in-law bequeathed a picture which had been in her family for some generations, and thought to be a minor old master, to a well-known gallery. She also left a house property in her own right to my husband, her only child.

Just before her death, shortly after this date, and while in hospital, she sent for her solicitor and asked him to make a codicil leaving the picture to my husband. We have a letter from the solicitor stating that this was the case but she died before signing it. The solicitor led us to believe that the codicil therefore became invalid and the picture had at least to be offered to the gallery.

Having seen the picture and restored it, the gallery accepted it "with pleasure". We always felt this rather hard, particularly as the property mentioned above had, without our knowledge, been the subject of essential repairs or order which had not been complied with and so it was demolished. Thus we lost out all ways.

My query is whether after all this time it would be worthwhile seeking to overturn the picture. As a national English bank were the executors the liability theirs? Their representative asked the gallery whether they wanted it; should the solicitor have espoused our cause? Have we in fact any redress at all after all this time? (W.S., Scotland.)

Under English law the bank as executor was obliged to offer the picture to the trustees of the gallery to which it was bequeathed. The trustees could have declined to accept it, for example, if they thought it unsuitable for exhibition. If rejected by the gallery it would have fallen back into the residue of your mother-in-law's estate.

Had the trustees been informed of the codicil leaving the picture to your husband, they might have seen fit to honour the last wishes of the deceased, even though she did not survive long enough to sign it. If you or your solicitors contact the trustees they may still be prepared to reconsider whether they wish to take advantage of the technical legal position although they might consider that as trustees of a charity they must insist on the gallery's legal entitlement.

Had the deceased's solicitor known she was unlikely to survive long enough to sign a codicil, he ought to have arranged for a *donatio mortis causa*, that is, the picture to be handed by the deceased to her



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Eric Brunet, John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving

son on her death bed. Failure to have advised the deceased may give your husband a legal claim against the solicitor. However, such a claim would have to be brought within six years of her death.

Following yet again on your informative reply about rent monies deposited with estate agents what is the position on reserve funds so deposited?

I own the lease of a flat in a building and, as is common practice, the various tenants contribute to a reserve fund against the repairs necessary every four years or so. When the maximum for the reserve was only £1,000 it was not a very material issue, but at present rates of contribution our reserve will rise to £10,000 or so before being used.

I have been informed that the monies are paid into "our normal clients' account which does not carry interest". I dare say what you said in the first paragraph of your reply about deposits is applicable here but there is also the angle of security. If the estate agent is managing only 100 properties similar to ours the average amount in the clients' account for reserve fund purposes alone is going to be in the five bracket—which makes one think. (G.W., London, SW1.)

Reserve funds contributed by tenants for repairs or renewals to the fabric of a block of flats (or its common parts) are not the funds of the landlord but are to be held by him (or his managing agents) in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of the tenants. Consequently the landlord is duty bound (just as a trustee is) to ensure that interest is earned on those reserve funds. If his agents neglect to place those funds on deposit the landlord is himself

responsible to make good the loss of interest.

I arranged to surrender my endowment policy in August, 1972, at which point the surrender value was £1,551. My solicitor says that the policy document has been lost in the post, and negotiations are still going on to claim the money. I should have had over £80 interest by now at I had received the money in August; should not the assurance society pay the interest to date? (Dr PYN, London, N1.)

An endowment policy, being an original document, ought to be sent by recorded post, so it may be your solicitor who is responsible for your loss of interest if he sent it by ordinary post. In any case he ought to have advised you to apply at once (within 14 days) for a duplicate when it became clear the policy was missing.

Alternatively you might insist that the assurance society should pay you interest on the ground that it has had the use of the money.

Ordinarily the amount payable under a policy does not carry interest as a matter of course. Nevertheless, you might be entitled to interest from the society on "general principles".

If there is no stipulation about interest, the policy itself would allow you to draw the society's attention to the court's power to award you interest under the Law Reform Act 1934, for the period payment is withheld.

If the maximum benefits which a pension scheme can take under a pension scheme depend on current annual remuneration, is it possible for any "fringe benefits" to be included so as to increase "remuneration" for this purpose? (G.W., Weymouth.)

Besides salary, commission and bonuses, other taxable benefits provided by an employer can be included for this purpose. Here, one can think of the use of a company car, or the use of company accommodation. Also, the cost of medical treatment insurance (such as BUPA or PPP) can be included if the employer meets the cost.

When calculating the maximum retirement benefits for funding purposes, the Inland Revenue allows an estimate of fringe benefits to be included, valued with the estimated benefits emerging under a pension contract. Current remuneration can be increased by 81 per cent each year, compound, to retirement age—so as to take into account both cost of living and promotion increases in earnings.

Birth of Sicklepath's own investment club

In the *Dartmouth Globe & Argus's* latest dispatch from Sicklepath, a glimmer of light can be seen at the end of the tunnel. It is now revealed that this whole elaborate pantomime has been staged to introduce the formation of the Great Grimpen Mire Investment Club, whose exploits will be regularly chronicled in these pages from now on.

Under the headline "Bitterly fought referendum at Sicklepath: limited success for Grog-Bevington faction", the article continues: "Sicklepath, in the grip of election fever, was the scene of something of a setback for supporters of Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolph Grog-Bevington, local Allied Elderberry tines tycoon."

In the referendum held to decide the fate of the Great Grimpen Mire, although the colonel himself was elected to the investment club committee alongside his commercial colleague, Mr Reginald Pluckin, chairman of the Dartmouth Building Society, none of his other close connections will be joining them.

Unsuccessful candidates included his personal assistant, Miss Gloria Dyerling-Friend, Mr Uriah Stoot, his head keeper, and Mr Alistair Sibling, the company secretary of Allied Elderberry Wines. Miss Darling-Friend lost her deposit and burst into tears on hearing the result.

Colonel Grog-Bevington had an automatic ex-officio seat on the committee having been nominated by Elizabeth, Lady Baskerville, Sir Jerry's mother, on her deathbed. The other two ex-officio members are Lady (Elizabeth) Baskerville, Sir

Henry's wife, and Mr Kevin Ludgate, Allied Elderberry Wines' shop steward, and local convertor of Nags (National Association of Slack-diddlers, Turn-creeper and Idle-babblers).

The remaining committee members will now be Prison Officer Walter ("Wormwood") Scrubbs of HM Prison Dartmouth; Mr Brian Thrift, local manager of the Scottish Imperturbable Insurance Company; Mr Sam Spender, Sicklepath garage owner; Miss Agatha Sibling, Mr Alistair Sibling's aunt; Mrs Ada Blott, the village postmistress; and the Vicar of Sicklepath, the Rev Basil Quiche.

"The election of the committee, which took place under the auspices of the Electoral Reform Society, was held at a time when the referendum to decide the fate of the Great Grimpen Mire itself. The village voted to sell the half of it that lies to the west of the dividing footpath for the half of £100,000. The remaining half will be administered by the committee, which will consider its further sale in the course of time."

The committee will also have the task of managing the £100,000 arising from the current transaction. Meanwhile, the west portion of the Mire will be mined for tin by the purchasers, Great Rockall and Hongkong Mining Company. "Sicklepath may thus now look forward to a new era of turbulent prosperity, having been pitch-forked into the unfamiliar world of investment and high finance."

Francis Kinsman

Mergers mastermind

Mr Philip Court is that rare example of a building society man in a hurry. Aged 41, he joined the old Wolverhampton and District in 1969 when it had assets of £20m. He helped to build it through eleven mergers to become the £280m Midlands, and just when he was on the brink of moving on in search of new challenges, up popped the £300m Town and Country with a merger proposal.

The enlarged T and C will be seventh in the movement's pecking order and Mr Court will be in charge—with little intention now of seeking pastures new. He is ambitious and wants a wider role in the building society movement and reckons that his new base could provide the stepping stone he needs.

MS

Ronald Irving

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Double or quits

A good time to stop on board Ocean Transport?

Good shares are not like fine wine, taking years to mature. If they do, they are bad shares. Naturally, I hope my selection comes good before we age and no reader reason to quit.

The game, occasionally recorded in this column, is called "Double or Quits" because it is meant for people who like their investing spiced with thrills.

Every share mentioned is a gamble on something turning up and the nature of the game is indicated with each recommendation.

If I seem to keep it is because most people who ask me for a gamble do not want to lose. They want a share that doubles—and in double-quick time.

Here, such shares are not normally on offer. Nor is insurance against losses. I hope naturally to give you the thrill of winning rather than losing, but from time to time even I nod.

However, as it happens, not lately. Indeed, I seem to be doing good by stealth. When play opened on 29th, Dunlop came in at 44p. They are now 59p.

Westland Aircraft appeared on December 1 at 47p. They have climbed to 75p. Staveley took a blow on December 29 at 156p. Now they are 159p.

There is no sense in quitting

when a game starts as well as this and I am sticking with these shares for they have a winning chance. Westland is the only one to have reported officially on its progress and it put my cautious gambling streak to shame.

I had hoped that it might make profits of £11.5m or more in the year to last September. In fact, Westland made £15.3m and quadrupled the dividend. Perhaps I should gamble a bit more.

With this in mind I suggest a flutter on Ocean Transport and Trade. The gamble is on gradual shipping recovery and a maintained final dividend.

I first considered P & O, now visibly recovering from the exit from oil and Lord Inchcape's surgery. But this is the snag. The shares have visibly recovered, too, rising from last year's low of 71p to 114p, only 26p, which illustrates life on Ocean's wave.

Prophecies are made only to be confounded, but I think that Ocean will maintain the final because it does not wish to damage its investment

standing; because its investment rival, P & O did so; and because business is getting better.

I also think that the impact of the Trans-Siberian Railway on Overseas Containers, in which Ocean has a big stake, can be exaggerated. Finally, the emerging cold war is altering the whole climate for world trade. West Africa, Ocean's speciality, is picking up briskly.

Meanwhile, there is a yield of more than 13 per cent to go on with if I am right. Anyway, all will be told in March when Ocean should report on 1979 with profits of £15m or so.

But perhaps Ocean is not your sort of gamble. For once I will oblige you with another. Try United Dominions Trust, still in the Bank of England lifeboat, and at 43p not exactly climbing, as the impression sinks in that interest rates are not coming down at once.

Moreover, the next set of figures to be reported—for the year to next June—will be unexciting, arousing fears that a return to dividends will be postponed. But interest rates are probably dropping sharply this year at some stage, interests outside hire purchase are growing and the group could be repositioned one day.

Peter Wainwright

Credit

Truth in lending at last

In the past it has been difficult to compare the costs of borrowing money in different ways because the lenders have quoted their charges in different ways. But from October 6 new orders and regulations under the Consumer Credit Act will require those who offer credit to show the total charge they are making for it, expressed as an annual percentage rate (APR).

The annual percentage rate, which will have to be included in quotations for credit and any advertisements that include more than basic information that credit is available, will be much higher than the rates of interest about which customers are used to hearing. As a rough guide, the APR works out in most cases at about double the yearly flat rate.

A flat rate of 10 per cent (£10 interest a year for every £100 borrowed) is therefore equivalent to an annual percentage rate of 19.5 per cent, assuming that the loan is repaid in monthly instalments over one year.

Similarly, a monthly rate of 11 per cent is also a 19.5 per cent annual percentage rate, if the debt is paid off in one year; and a hire purchase agreement of £20 deposit with 12 monthly payments of £7.33, to buy something with a cash price of £100, also amounts to having the same APR—19.5 per cent.

It becomes possible to compare the costs of borrowing in these different ways for the first time when the APR is calculated as a common means of expression. But the calculation of the rate is not simple. Indeed, an APR as it will be quoted in Britain is not the same as one calculated, for example, in America.

American rates, while similarly comparable, are with an annual rate of 17.5 per cent or 2 per cent lower than those calculated, according to the British rules.

One important distinguishing feature which makes the APR more truthful than other ways of quoting interest is that it must be based on the total charge for credit, taking into account all the extra costs that credit customers incur which they would escape if they paid cash. So it might include not only interest, but also different types of charges, the cost of a maintenance contract, which the customer might be obliged to enter into during a period of hire or credit purchase, or the cost of an insurance policy, which he might be required to have as security for the loan or goods being bought on credit.

The other vital difference is that the annual percentage rate takes into account the amount actually owed at different times during the life of a loan. The sum of £100 borrowed and repaid in 12 monthly repayments of £9.50 (12 x £9.50 =

L. SHARK



BARGAIN OFFER**

28% TRUE

YOURS FOR SAME

PRICE AT 14% FLAT

£114) would be said to carry a flat rate of interest of 14 per cent. But on average over the year the customer owes little more than half the original amount of the loan and that is why the APR works out at almost 28 per cent.

Where the terms of a loan are fixed in advance the APR can be precisely calculated—at any rate, by the sufficiently numerate and with the aid of a calculator. Where there are variables the rate must necessarily be an estimate based on assumptions which the regulator insists must not be unfair to the customer.

For example, the main credit cards, charging a monthly rate of interest of 21 per cent, quote an annual percentage rate of 30.6 per cent but that is in fact a maximum, taking no account of the free

TYPICAL BORROWING COSTS	
Bank overdraft	20-24
Bank personal loan	61-7
Insurance policy loans	61-8
Finance company	27+
Credit cards	up to 30.6
In-house credit cards, budget accounts	20.9-34.4
Finance house unsecured loans	28.3-65.4
Hire purchase, credit	22.5-60+
Trading cheques	up to 72.5+
Corporate moneylenders	up to 121
Back street moneylenders	up to 1,600

credit period before payment becomes due or any repayment in the course of the year.

A £100 purchase by Access or Barclaycard enjoying 15 free credit days and repaid over three months in as near as possible equal instalments would bear total interest of £3.51 and work out as having almost exactly the same APR as our previous examples—19.5 per cent.

Over six months on similar assumptions the rate is 24.9 per cent and over one year 27.6 per cent. The credit card companies claim that it is virtually impossible to imagine that any of their customers would ever really have to pay the maximum annual percentage rate which they are legally obliged to quote.

But the more "down market" one goes, the higher the interest rates become. A company lending unsecured money for short terms and in small amounts, relying on manual collection as the only way of bringing its risks down to acceptable levels, will be charging an APR of more than 100 per cent.

Small local companies, usually descended from the credit drapery trade, will find it particularly difficult to quote an APR. A £50 loan at 25 per cent, for example—a not untypical offer in this sort of lending—goes over the top of the ready reference tables published by the Stationery Office. They stop at 999 per cent and it works out at 1068.6 per cent.

Robin Young

Stock markets

Gold the one bright spot amid the gloom

Equities and gilts ended the first leg of the account on a dull note yesterday, as the market continued to be swamped by gloom and despondency.

Equities remained nervous ahead of the Law Lords' judgment on the secondary picketing issue, in the steel strike, with the market continuing to mark-down prices.

Gilts, too, had a worried look. Percy Lane Group rose 1p to 29p. The 1979-80 low was 24p (a week ago) and the high 58p. More than 100,000 shares were taken off the market yesterday on considerations, it is thought, of Lane's property potential.

The group is capitalised at little more than £1m. The property at 1978 values was put at £2m.

with dealers reporting steady bouts of selling. Elsewhere, gold shares staged a recovery as the bullion price rose £27.50 to \$677.50 following steady overnight levels on the New York market and a certain amount of short cover. But oils continued to drift on fears of a general weakening of the oil price and despite news that the Kuwaitis had raised their price.

News that GEC had made a counter-bid for Decca, which in spite of forecasts along those lines, took the market completely by surprise, sending shares surging back to their various watering holes.

However, the news failed to do anything for the remainder of the market which still had to cope with the decision of the Law Lords to overrule Lord Denning's previous judgment. As a result equities continued to drift lower and the FT Index closed 5.5 down at 447.8.

The sharp jump in the Treasury bill rate knocked even more of the stuffing out of gilts, which had already been worried by the fear that it could still be quite some time before interest rates began to fall.

Longs finished the day at the bottom, with falls of between £1 and £1 not uncommon, while shorts managed to finish about £1 off the bottom with losses of about £1 to £1.50.

Leading industrials had a neglected look about them, the exception to the rule being Reed International which rose 4p to 201p, encouraged by some good figures earlier in the week. But elsewhere, falls of between 6p and 8p were noted in ICI at

376p, Glaxo at 470p, Fisons at 277p and Unilever at 454p. The main news of the day concerned GEC's counter-bid for Decca. The Decca shares were immediately suspended at 395p. As a result equities continued to drift lower and the FT Index closed 5.5 down at 447.8.

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Westland Aircraft slipped 3p to 74p on news that John Brown up 1p at 59p, had sold its sizeable stake through a placing in the market at 70p.

Bid talk also continued to inspire Guthrie 15p to 24p, as talk persisted that Sims Darby would make a bid in the spring.

Satchel Parke Bernert improved another 10p to 495p on whispers of a bid from the United States. But Christie International eased 1p to 175p. Among companies reporting, Wholesale Fittings were rewarded for a set of good figures by a rise of 35p to 495p, while Evode improved 1p to 45p.

In engineering, Dewy were nervous ahead of interim figures next Wednesday, dipping 7p to 158p, while the threat of lay offs as a result of the steel strike lopped 12p from Metal Box at 236p. GKN were 6p higher at 266p, although press comment lifted Closures 5p to 119p.

Debenhams were once again

the leading light in an otherwise dull stores sector rising 2p to 87p. The theory remains that a bid from whatever quarter cannot be too far off. House of Fraser was 3p lower at 135p and Burton 4p off at 109p.

Gold again surged ahead on the back of the latest rise in the bullion price with some

Douglas has got City analysts flummoxed. Next Wednesday it will report interim profits. Estimates of nine brokers range from £11m through £14m (the comparable figure the year before) to as much as £18m. On February 13 Douglis meet the Society of Investment Analysts where members can discuss with group chiefs where and why they went wrong. Jobbers had the shares 7p down at 156p yesterday as a precaution.

sizeable gains being maintained. Anglo American Gold rose 53p to \$891 along with St Helena \$14 up to \$353 and West Driefontein 25 cents better at \$821. Among the London financials, Cons Gold rose 8p to 477p.

Oils were another weak spot, with falls throughout the list. BP fell 6p to 356p, Shell 10p to 346p and Ultramar 8p to 43p. Equity turnover on January 31 was £122.62m (16,188 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Premier Consolidated, ICI, Beecham, GEC, BAT, Burnham, Debenhams, RTZ and Consolidated Gold Fields.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Brigay GP (I)	1.35(1.24)	0.003(0.001)	0.04(0.01)	—	—	—
Brif Amer & Gen (F)	—	2.15(1.91)	2.51(1.95)	13(11.12)	17/4	2.34(1.85)
Colonial Sec (F)	—	0.51(0.46)	—	8(6.5)	3/4	10.9
Colson Prop (F)	10.87(10.25)	—	—	—	—	—
Idris Tin (F)	—	1.56(0.26)	—	—	—	—
Radley Fashion (F)	6.17(5.12b)	0.09(0.19b)	8.52(16.46)	2.87(2.87b)	4/4	4.57(4.31b)
Radio Rentals (I)	75.82(67.7)	21.59(15.85)	—	—	—	—
Radio Rentals (I)	—	0.01(0.01)	—	—	—	—
Wholesale Fit (I)	11.44(9.12)	1.49(0.84)	20.5(11.6)	4.0(2.23)	10/4	(5.6)
H. Young (I)	1.98(1.72)	0.006(0.01a)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere, dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross dividends, the net dividend by 1.423. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss; b 13 months; c Figures for both years are gross revenue.

Evode makes up for first-half setback

By Rosemary Unsworth

Evode Holdings the Staffordshire adhesives manufacturer, made up for its first-half setback as anticipated by boosting profits at the year end by 20 per cent.

Pretax profits rose from £1.3m to £1.6m and turnover increased by 17 per cent to £29m in the 52 weeks to September 29, 1979.

Mr Andrew Simon, acting chairman of the Evode-Stik products group, said that while the results were satisfactory, "they only go a small way towards the profits growth and profit margins we are striving for."

He explained that all divisions had a difficult first half because of poor weather and national industrial unrest but that this had been followed by

buoyant trading conditions in the second half. "The pent-up demand in the economy showed through," he said.

Evode has closed down its overseas activities which were losing money or not making an adequate return. These include the loss-making French company and the United States distribution operation.

A final dividend of 1.39p gross has been proposed, which with the interim of 0.65p gross, makes a total of 2p and represents a 15 per cent increase over last year's 1.73p.

Although first quarter results have not been satisfactory, Mr Simon expressed concern over the immediate outlook for the United Kingdom and world economy and the possible effects of a prolonged steel strike. The share price gained 1p to 45p.

ARMOUR TRUST
Turnover for half-year to October 31, £4.3m (£3.8m). Pretax profit, £241,000 (£217,000). Tax nil (same). Board intends to pay a higher dividend for year than last year.

BARROW HEPBURN GROUP
Caparo has acquired further 50,000 ordinary shares in Barrow, making total of 6.75m (27.93 per cent).

MATTHEW BROWN
Chairman told annual meeting that Brown's performance so far this year is "satisfactory."

PENTOS
Pentos' offshoot, Hudsons Bookshops, to buy retail bookshop and library supply business from Brown and Son for about £30,000 cash.

TECHNOLOGY TRUST
Gross revenue of Technology Investment Trust for half-year to November 30 up from £54,000 to £62,000.

CITY OF LONDON TRUST
Gross revenue of City of London Brewery and Investment Trust up from £1.3m to £1.52m for half-year to December 31. Board expects 1980 total dividend of "not less" than 5p gross for year (4.74p).

LONGTON INDUSTRIAL
Having achieved record figures in 1978-79, Longton Industrial is still pushing ahead. Taxable profits rose by 14 per cent to £92,000 on turnover of 13 per cent up at £20.4m—in the six

months to September 30. With earnings per share of 10.82p, the interim gross dividend is being raised from 1.85p to 2p.

HILL & SMITH
Turnover for year to September 30 up from £14.32m to £16.07m, but pretax profits fell from £1.05m to £0.80m (same). Total gross dividend raised from 4.47p to 5p. One-for-ten scrip issue proposed.

MOOLOYA INVESTMENTS
Mr C. Baldwin of Wessells has acquired a further 100,000 ordinary shares in Mooloya at 95p.

Briefly

TRICENTRAL-CABLEFORM
Acceptances of offers by Tricentral for Cableform, now total 92 per cent of ordinary share capital and 91 per cent of preference share capital of Cableform.

B. YOUNG HOLDINGS
Turnover for half-year to November 30 up from £1.72m to £1.98m. Pre-tax profit, £5,000 (loss, £17,000). Tax nil (same). No dividend (same).

RADLEY FASHION
Turnover for year to May 19, £6.17m (£5.12m for 13 months). Pre-tax profit, £95,000 (£199,000 for 13 months). Dividend, 6.5p gross (6.46p for 13 months).

Growth continues at Wholesale Fittings

By Our Financial Staff

Wholesale Fittings Company continues its improved growth track in the first half and boosted profits at the pre-tax level by 76 per cent.

The wholesale electrical distributor pushed profits from £847,000 to £1,499m and improved turnover by 25 per cent to £11.4m in the six months to October 26, 1979. In the past two years annual profits have risen by more than 70 per cent.

The interim dividend has been increased by 79 per cent

to 5.7p gross but the board said that the improvement must not be taken as an indication of the level of the final. Last year's total was 14.3p gross.

Wholesale's strength comes from its concentration on the specialised industrial end of the market. It operates primarily through depots in the Greater London and Manchester areas.

Two new depots at Darford and Gillingham are to be opened making a total of 18. Turnover during the first two months of the second half has shown an increase over the corresponding period of last year, but Mr Dennis Rose, the chairman, warned that it would be unwise to anticipate the rate of increase in profits in the first half will be maintained in the second.

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Interest rate holds back Town & City

By Philip Robinson

High interest rates gave a virtually unchanged look to the half-time figures from Jeffrey Sterling's Town & City Properties.

The market had been expecting some sign of further improvement which the group has shown over the past three years, but with the first-half carrying nearly four months of MLR at 17 per cent, the interest bill went up from £11.6m to £14.1m and kept the loss before tax at around £7.5m.

Mr Sterling said: "If we had been working on a comparable interest rate in this half year the interest bill would have been £3 million lower." That would have brought the loss before tax down to around £4.5m.

But it is the prospects for the second half traditionally the better six months, which probably played a part in bring-

ing the shares down 1.75p to 18p. The six months to the year end of March this year will bear the full brunt of a 17 per cent MLR.

High interest rates, the directors say that the figures show an improvement in the underlying strength of the group. Net income from property rents, as more developments are completed, jumped 77 per cent to £3.1m with more income from the Sterling Guarantee Trust which includes Earls Court, Olympia, Sutcliffe Catering Group and engineering distributors. Buck and Hickman, rose from £2.1m to £3.3m.

For the first time there has also been an increase in the value of shareholders' funds, by £6.5m, to around £75 million. A further £45m worth of property which was in the books at £28m has been sold since last March, bringing total sales to date to £170m which had a book value of £342m.

Mr Mears may join Walker

Mr David Mears, who resigned as deputy managing director of furniture group Christie-Tyler three months ago, is in talks with the directors of competitor, Walker & Homer, which could lead to a seat on the board.

Walker & Homer issued a statement yesterday that discussions were taking place which could lead to a closer association between Mr Mears and the company, and said a conclusion is not expected for several weeks.

Mr Mears, 36, signed a business consultancy agreement with Walker on Thursday night.

Walker's financial director

and company secretary, Mr Thomas Shaw, said last night: "It is too early to say, but we are discussing a directorship which could be the post of chief executive. On a consultancy basis, Mr Mears will bring a large amount of valuable expertise and marketing ability to the group."

Profits of Walker & Homer have been going down since 1975 on a turnover which has remained static. Last year the group passed its interim and final dividends as profits went into the red to the tune of £87,000. Walker & Homer's first-half was ruled off on February 21, and should be reported in April.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Feb 8. Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 13
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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— THE TIMES SHARE INDICES
Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

